

## Fresh role for Conservative headquarters

### Propaganda proposals to be put before Thatcher

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Proposals aimed at transforming Conservative Party headquarters into the nerve centre of the Government's propaganda machine are to be put before the Prime Minister next month.

They envisage a huge shake-up of both the structure and duties of the 140 permanent staff at Conservative Central Office with the bulk of their energies being channelled into campaigning efforts in the Government cause.

Under the plan, the party's considerable reserves of cash and manpower would be concentrated in areas such as advertising, direct mail, computer-aided campaigning, the production and distribution of a national newsletter

and the latest techniques in electronic communications.

The press and media department would be revamped to give it a greater cutting edge and the whole communications effort would be far more tightly controlled from the centre and more responsive to Downing Street.

The upheaval would inevitably lead to staff changes and widespread reorganization of the existing party structure, with many of the old guard being replaced.

The plan is due to be presented to Mrs Margaret Thatcher by Mr Norman

for Central Office amounted to massive change in its underlying philosophy and there were serious doubts whether the party at large and the Prime Minister would be prepared to embrace readily a sudden conversion to the powerful and sophisticated techniques more often associated with American political parties.

One said the aim was to make Central Office the Government's "right hand", springing to its defence in times of political difficulty and bringing all its resources to bear on winning the argument over matters of burning political controversy.

Such an organization would, for instance, be taking a far higher profile in the debate currently raging over the plan to replace rates with the community charge.

Mrs Thatcher's zeal for policy reform has never been matched by a parallel enthusiasm for administrative or organizational change either in Whitehall or Smith Square.

She has tended to favour informal decision-making within the party and has always been wary of giving the party chairman and Central Office sufficient clout and leeway to emerge as a rival power centre to 10 Downing Street.

Such internal tensions were a major important factor in the Conservative Party's lacklustre election campaign effort and may lead her to water down or reject outright Mr Tebbit's blueprint.

The Tory chairman's proposals are likely to be viewed with some alarm by party activists, who remain deeply attached to the highly developed structure of the party under which members join a local constituency association and Central Office's role is broadly that of a long stop.

Continued on page 18, col 1



Lord Whitelaw, who helped plan the Tory shake-up.

Tebbit, the Tory chairman, shortly after his return from holiday in Devon.

He has drawn it up in consultation with Mr Cecil Parkinson and Lord Whitelaw, two former party chairmen. Mr Peter Morrison, the deputy chairman, Sir Peter Lane, chairman of the National Union Executive Committee, and Lord Goolbsy, chairman of the Scottish Conservatives.

Mr Tebbit is now putting the finishing touches to his report and coming to highly sensitive conclusions about the recommended pace of change within the party.

Party insiders told *The Times* yesterday that the plans

## A new face behind phantom's mask



Dave Willetts, who is to be the new *Phantom of the Opera*, with Sarah Brightman yesterday, who is returning to play the show's heroine, Christine. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

## Rising star still down to earth

By Lynda Martin, Arts Correspondent

Behind the make-up and the mask, the face of the actor playing the title role in the West End musical *The Phantom of the Opera* remains hidden.

So the fact that Dave Willetts, aged 35, who three years ago was a manager at a Coventry engineering company, was yesterday announced as the successor to the very well-known Michael Crawford matters less than in similar substitutions.

Mr Willetts, currently the lead in another hit show, *Les Misérables*, remained phlegmatic about taking over as the Phantom from October 12.

Already he commutes daily to the West End from his home at Baginbun, Warwickshire, where his wife is a child-minder. He said: "We are both very down to earth people. We are enjoying success while it's here, but we are both well aware it can be whisked away from you as quickly as it's given."

The producers also announced that Sarah Brightman is to return for four weeks from September 21 to the role of Christine. It was written for her by her husband, the show's creator, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and she sang the part for the first six months of the show's West End run.

Miss Brightman, recently underwent an operation for stomach ulcers, but she and Michael Crawford will lead the cast when *The Phantom* opens on Broadway in January.

Mr Willetts was plucked from the obscurity of a cabinet artist after he attended an open audition in London and was selected as understudy to Colin Wilson, in the demanding role of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*. He took over that part last October.

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But it is also assumed that they will be able to demand access at short notice to many other military bases if their satellites suggest that there could be hidden missiles. A major issue now being discussed is whether Britain will be able to reserve any areas.

American reports that Britain and other allies objected to the original proposals on grounds that Soviet access would have been too great were denied yesterday by British and American sources.

They said it had always been envisaged that if Moscow accepted the zero-zero proposals, less verification would be needed.

US officials believed that Britain's apparent change of heart reflected stronger support for President Reagan's policy in the Gulf, but Sir Geoffrey insisted that it remained "a purely administrative matter" when a foreign vessel applied to fly the Red Ensign, and not a matter of political decision.

Asked if Britain intended to follow the US lead and declare a new policy on reflagging, the Foreign Secretary said: "No, there is no question of that. There has been and is to be no change in policy in that respect." He also stressed that Britain's Armilla Patrol only operated in the southern part of the Gulf. American warships sail the full length of the Gulf and escort ships all the way to Kuwait.

But Sir Geoffrey failed to satisfy Mr Denzil Davies, Labour's defence spokesman, who criticized his "hands-off" approach to reflagging. "The British Government should now put an end to the dangerous farce whereby it pretends that applications to reflag Kuwaiti oil tankers ..."

Continued on page 18, col 4

## Arms checks stance eased

By Michael Binyon and Andrew McKewen

American negotiations yesterday put forward revised and far less stringent procedures for verifying compliance with the proposed superpower treaty eliminating medium-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

British Government experts said that the changes followed a recognition that there was now much less need for procedures allowing either side to inspect the other's bases at short notice.

This stemmed from Moscow's decision earlier this year to accept the West's proposal that both categories should be eliminated globally, rather than each side retaining 100 medium-range missiles.

It will be far simpler for satellites to confirm that there

are no missiles in the banned categories than to count how many each side has. The original "challenge inspection" proposals assumed that within days of a satellite detecting a suspected infringement, inspectors would have to be given access for on-site checks.

The suggestions — not yet full proposals — submitted at the Geneva talks yesterday do not spell out how much Soviet inspectors will be allowed to see in Britain. British and American senior experts are still holding talks on this.

What is certain is that, because Britain has cruise missile sites at Greenham Common and at Molesworth, Soviet inspectors will have the right to check that they are dismantled.

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## Press wins power to fight court bans

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government has been forced to change the law to give the press a statutory right to challenge banning orders made by crown court judges under the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

It has tabled a new clause to the Criminal Justice Bill which would enable the press and other interested parties to go to the High Court for a review of an order prohibiting publication of details in criminal trials.

The change means that for the first time orders made by crown court judges are subject to judicial review.

It comes amid growing concern at the judges' wide discretion to impose bans under the Act and is likely to increase pressure for other crown court decisions, such as sitting in camera, to be subject to the same right of review.

The change, to be debated at the Bill's committee stage in the autumn, comes after a ruling by the European Commission on Human

Rights in a test case brought by Mr Tim Crook, a journalist based at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Crook, backed by the National Union of Journalists and the National Council for Civil Liberties, took the Government to the European Commission in Strasbourg over the lack of a review procedure for banning orders.

But yesterday Miss Hilary Kitchen, solicitor for the NCCL, said the council had not yet decided whether the change provided the press with an effective right of access to the courts.

It wanted to ensure that the right would not come into use so long after the trial that it was meaningless, because of delays in the civil courts.

The case was brought over an order by Judge Robert Lyndberg QC in January 1984 forbidding the press from publishing the name of a chief

Continued on page 18, col 6

## Reflagging policy 'is unchanged'

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, moved swiftly yesterday to quash any suggestion that Britain had suddenly changed its policy over the reflagging of foreign ships bound for the Gulf.

His intervention, in the form of radio and television interviews, came only hours after the US Administration had proudly claimed that Kuwaiti oil tankers would be allowed to sail under the British flag.

Sir Geoffrey said the US State Department had recognized that their comments were "ill-founded", and he added: "There is no change and has been no change in British policy."

US officials believed that Britain's apparent change of heart reflected stronger support for President Reagan's policy in the Gulf, but Sir Geoffrey insisted that it remained "a purely administrative matter" when a foreign vessel applied to fly the Red Ensign, and not a matter of political decision.

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Continued on page 18, col 4

## British nurse held by Sudan rebels released

By Richard Ford

A British nurse kidnapped and held captive by rebels in Sudan was freed yesterday after being marched miles on foot by her captors to the border with Kenya.

Miss Heather Sinclair, aged 29, was released with three fellow United States relief workers after being held captive for seven weeks by members of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

She was flown with her three colleagues to Nairobi, where last night she had a medical check before preparing to return to her family home in Northern Ireland.

Miss Sinclair's father, Mr

Kelso Sinclair, said that in a brief telephone conversation with her parents at their farm in Draperstown, County Londonderry, his daughter had "told us she was very well and had been well treated".

Mr Sinclair said that his daughter, who went to Sudan in February with Tear Fund, a Christian development agency, and was seconded to Across, an organization that co-ordinates relief agency work, had given him no details of her release.

"We think she will be here before the weekend", he said, adding: "We are very, very relieved."

Continued on page 18, col 4

## 1.3 million voters missing from rolls

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

About 1.3 million eligible voters were unable to vote in this year's General Election because their names were missing from electoral registers in the inner cities.

The reason is the extreme difficulty of ensuring that everyone entitled to vote actually registers with their local authority, according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. The problem is worst in properties where there is multi-occupation.

The OPCS calculate that one in six of the adult population in inner cities fails to register. In inner London, up to 17 per cent of eligible voters are excluded from the roll.

Those new figures, the most accurate to date, will fuel arguments about the proposed poll tax. The Government has admitted that lists of poll taxpayers will, at first, rely on electoral registers that the OPCS now says are flawed.

Collecting adequate lists for the new tax is likely to be made difficult by the widespread failure, reported by the OPCS, to answer questionnaires or open the door to canvassers. Its statisticians say their work is an underestimate of those missing from the rolls because many households re-

fused to take part in the study. Yet Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary said recently he hoped the impact of the poll tax would be felt most strongly in inner city areas where Labour local authorities were in power.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment said yesterday that though the electoral rolls could be used to check poll tax lists, councils were expected to draw up new lists using additional information such as who was using council libraries or applying for home improvement grants.

The OPCS found that in inner London between 12 and 17 per cent of adults (between 350,000 and 500,000 people) were not on registers. Lists outside the capital were more accurate; omissions there ranged from 4 to 9 per cent.

The statisticians found in addition that between 28 and 39 per cent of households, particularly those with more than one family, failed to return the forms many councils send out each year to get information for the electoral roll.

Electoral Registration in inner city areas 1983-84. HMSO £5.40.

## Future looks grim for the Chocolate Express

By Robin Young

British Rail is keen to finish its chocolate drops. It wants to withdraw the two daily trains which run over its shortest branch line, a 330-yard stretch from York station to the tiny terminal at the Rowntree chocolate factory.

The platform at Rowntree Halt, installed in the 1920s, once served hundreds of workers travelling from Doncaster and Selby to the factory. As more and more people turned to buses or cars, the number of passengers dwindled and now the two-coach diesel trains carry only three regular passengers each weekday and five on Fridays.

Consultative Committee for North East England held a public inquiry into the proposal to close the line, and was told that British Rail's revenue from the line's continued existence next year would be just £10. Against that, the cost of maintaining the line when services through York are electrified would be £200,000.

The National Union of Railwaymen and the Railway Development Society were among the five objectors to the closure. They claimed that the trains are little used only because the evening return train terminates at York, leaving Selby and Doncaster passengers with a 25-minute wait for their connection.

to the closure were Miss Amelia Garth, Mrs Caroline Wilson and Miss Beatrice Holy. They regularly use the four-minute train ride to catch their connecting train to Sowerby. They said the bus journey from the factory took 30 minutes and if they caught the bus, they would miss their connection.

The move to close the line was prompted by Rowntree's decision to distribute their confectionery by road rather than rail. Freight from a second factory will end by next year, leaving the branch line and junction redundant save for its exceptionally light passenger traffic.

British Rail says that ending the factory's special workers' train, known locally as the Chocolate Express, will

allow it to remove the junction as part of the modernisation and electrification programme at York. Mr James Towler, a vice-president of the Railway Development Society, argued that it should be maintained, in case freight traffic could be wooed back later.

British Rail said: "Because the halt belongs to the firm, only Rowntree workers are allowed to use the line. Requests for rail enthusiasts' outings have been refused, and it is plain that the line is now completely uneconomical."

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, is expected to announce a decision on the closure proposal shortly.

## THE TIMES Degree course vacancies

Today's Degree Course Vacancies Service covers medicine, dentistry, subjects related to medicine, and the biological sciences. Page 37

## Exam results

Degrees awarded by the University of Liverpool will be published tomorrow.

## IN PART 2

## Revie's finale

Don Revie's appointment as England football manager promised much, but ended in acrimony. Page 38

## TIMES FOCUS

Rapidly putting the recession behind it, Birmingham is buoyant about its future. Special Report, pages 25-27

## Portfolio

There were four winners of the Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £8,000 yesterday because there was no winner on Monday. Details, page 3. Portfolio list, page 23.

## INDEX

Overseas	2-4
Business	19-24
Sport	38-42
Arts	14
Births, deaths, marriages	13
Bridge	21
City Diary	12
Court	12
Crème de la Crème	31-33
Crosswords	7, 18
Diary	10
Entertainments	16
Features	7, 10, 15
Information	37
Law Report	11
Leading articles	11
Letters	26, 29
Media	26, 29
Obituary	12
Property	34-36
Science	25-27
Special report	25-27
Universities	12
Weather	18
Wills	12

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The Rolex Oyster Perpetual Chronometer is available in stainless steel, stainless steel and gold, or yellow metal or 18ct gold. From the Rolex Collection at Watches of Switzerland's new Brent Cross showroom.

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of Geneva

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Watches of Switzerland's  
new Brent Cross showroom

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**Watches of Switzerland**  
The watch shop

LONDON: 16 New Bond St W1; 5 New Bond St W1 (Exclusive Rolex showroom);  
The Swiss Centre W1: 279 Regent St. W1; Tyne, 1 Old Bond St W1;  
22 Royal Exchange EC3; 68-69 Finch Church St EC3; 69 Broadgate BA53;  
BIRMINGHAM: 125 New St; BOURNEMOUTH: 6 Westover Rd;  
CAMBRIDGE: 15 Market Hill; MANCHESTER: 17 King St; OXFORD:  
2 Cornmarket St; GLASGOW: 64 Argyle Arcade; EDINBURGH: 127 Princes St;  
CARDIFF: 12 High St.

David Liso







# Sex abuse case boy killed while staying with foster parents

By Peter Davenport

A boy aged two who was taken from his home by social workers after allegations of sexual abuse, has died of extensive internal injuries sustained while in the care of first-time foster parents.

Yesterday senior officials of Leeds Social Services Department were conducting an urgent inquiry and police are treating the case as murder.

The foster father, aged 29, who has been held in prison since Saturday accused of wounding the boy, was yesterday further remanded by magistrates until September 2.

Mr Bernard Aiba, chairman of Leeds City Council's social services committee, promised a full inquiry into the case. He said yesterday: "This is a hideous tragedy. We were trying to make the boy safe by putting him into the care of foster parents and now he is tragically killed."

An initial report is being compiled for the social services committee by Mr Derek James, the department's director.

The inquiry aims to find out if the system of selection, training, assessment and fol-

low-up monitoring of foster parents had been properly observed and to allay any public concern that details of the incident are being hidden.

The boy and his elder brother, aged four, were placed with the same foster parents less than two months ago after the council had secured a care order.

Both boys had been in local authority care for about a year while social workers investigated allegations of sexual abuse within the family. Evidence of abuse was presented to the court before the care order was made.

The foster parents, who have two young children of their own, underwent six months' training before taking the young brothers into their home.

Yesterday Mr Aiba said there was no history of mistreatment of their own children. The boy was taken to hospital last Thursday with extensive injuries, including, it is understood, a fractured skull. He was placed on a life support machine. It was switched off on Sunday when doctors said there was no chance of a recovery.

The boy's brother was immediately taken from the foster home and placed in a council children's home where he has since been seen by his natural parents. They had made no request to have the child back and any such decision would be up to a court, Mr Aiba explained.

The foster father's two children were still living with their mother but it is understood that social workers are investigating to see whether there are any grounds for them to be taken into care.

Leeds City Council's social services department has taken a leading role in publicizing the extent of the child abuse problem.

Although much of the abuse is centred within the family, the problem was highlighted by the exposure of a child sex ring in which children as young as eight years had been selling sex for cash. Dozens of men subsequently appeared before the courts.

Of the 600 youngsters young people annually on the at-risk register in the city, up to two-thirds are sexual abuse cases.

Mr Aiba said that the department believed from research that as many as one in ten young people in the city may have been the victims of sexual abuse, mainly girls and mainly within the family. He said they included two children, both under two years old, who had developed venereal disease after being abused, it was believed, by their father.

Mr Aiba said that the number of cases was so demanding that one of the city's two consultant paediatricians, Dr Jane Wynne, an expert on child abuse, had had to cancel her clinics for physically and mentally handicapped children to cope with the workload, to the distress of their parents.

The city has spent about £300,000 over the past three years on extra resources to cope with the problems of child sexual abuse. However, Mr Aiba said, to tackle such a problem properly and effectively would need extra funding of up to £2 million a year.

There is a tendency now, with so much publicity being given recently to the fact that 85 to 90 per cent of abuse takes place within the home, that complacency about the other dangers is growing," Mr Webster said.

A social worker has to obtain a place of safety order after first having discussed the matter with either the police or a doctor. The order must be granted by a justice of the peace.

However, once that order has been granted and a child taken into care, the matter is immediately referred to the reporter of a children's panel. A full hearing is then held.

The review will look at the possibility of allowing children aged 16 and over to refer themselves into care without parental consent.

## Boy artist is offered exhibition



By Ruth Gledhill

Cheerfully displaying the kind of work which has gained him an A grade in his O level art examination is James Schroder of Waterlooville, Hampshire, a talented artist at the age of 11. Now he is setting his sights on the A level examination. When he sat and drew three portraits during much of his early life, his mother knew she had to do something special for him or allow him to drive her mad. She bought him a set of quality chalk crayons

and paints when he was seven. Within hours the boy was happily at work. His next present was an easel. Yesterday he was celebrating his examination success. "I feel very excited about it. I thought I had only got a grade B", he said. James has just been offered a two-week exhibition of 50 of his paintings by the Mountbatten Gallery in Portsmouth. "My favourite work is still life and portraits. I will not be selling any of my work. I have no right to do that, I

feel the first things I do are very important. I will start selling pictures when I am older and need to make a living from painting." His mother, Mrs Anne Schroder, said: "When he was three he did a realistic drawing of Robin Hood. When he was four he started drawing animals. He always seemed to get his drawings exactly right. We thought it was just a fluke at first. He used to create havoc to get attention." (Photograph: Peter Trevnor).

## Nurse sets sights on Rome trip

A holiday in Rome is the aim of Miss Jackie Riccietelli, a nurse aged 24, who shares yesterday's £8,000 Portfolio Gold prize with three other winners.

Miss Riccietelli, of Wicklea Road, Southbourne, Dorset, said she will probably wait until next year to get the best of the weather before visiting family friends in the Italian capital.

"I'm absolutely delighted. I have been reading *The Times* for 18 months and have played the game for four or five months. I'm quite a competitive person so I like having a go at these things."

"You never know your luck, as has been proved today. I shall carry on getting the paper and keep trying," she said.

The other winners were Mr Kenneth Frankson, aged 71, a retired Civil Servant, of Manor Drive, Chagford, Devon, who also plans a holiday; Mrs Lyn Witcomb, aged 34, a mother of four from Newport Pagnall, Buckinghamshire, who has designs on a new car; and Mr John Hopkins, of The Crescent, Litherbury, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Readers wishing to play the Portfolio Gold competition can obtain a card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,  
The Times,  
Blackburn,  
BB1 6AJ.

## Wife poisoned with Valentine chocolate bar

A man who poisoned his wife with a laced chocolate on St Valentine's Day was jailed for four years yesterday.

Ian Walker, aged 36, of St John, Jersey, dipped a bar of chocolate in caustic soda after a dispute with his wife, Rosemary, revealed the packet and gave it to his wife as the set off on a holiday to Devon. Exeter Crown Court was told.

His wife vomited immediately after eating the chocolate and was treated in hospital for ulcers and mouth burns. Walker admitted poisoning with intent to injure.

## Four fined for cricket brawl

Four men convicted of assaulting police during violent scenes after a drinking session at a Worcestershire county cricket match against Lancashire were fined between £200 and £475 each by Worcester magistrates yesterday.

One man came from Worcester and the others from Winsford, Cheshire.

## Judge held on drugs charge

Syrd Mohammad Jafri Iqbal, a Pakistani judge, aged 37, of Streatham, south-west London, was remanded in custody for a week by Uxbridge magistrates yesterday accused of attempting to smuggle heroin valued at £250,000 at Heathrow Airport on August 23.

## Husband must pay £120,000

A man who said family life ought to be run like the Army was yesterday ordered to pay the balance of a £220,000 divorce settlement.

Mr Derek Allen, aged 64, said his wife, Mary, was a deserter. He has already paid £100,000. The Court of Appeal refused his appeal against paying the rest. His wife aged 56, divorced Mr Allen, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, in 1983.

## Assault over kissogram girl

The head of a topless kissogram agency kicked and punched a rival he accused of poaching his favourite girl. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told yesterday.

Douglas Summerfield, aged 40, of Green Lane, Peckham, West Midlands, admitted assaulting Mr Peter Turley and his wife, Kathleen, who was pushed over and chipped an ankle when she tried to intervene. Summerfield was ordered to pay her £300 compensation and was conditionally discharged for 12 months.

## Bail granted in shares case

A self-employed businessman accused of insider dealing in a company takeover bid elected trial by jury when he appeared at Guildhall Justices Rooms in London yesterday.

Mr Brian Fisher, aged 34, of Bentinck House, Bentinck Street, west London, was accused of insider dealing on the Stock Exchange on December 5 1985, during the takeover of Thompson T-Line Transport Company. He was granted unconditional bail until October 6.

## Children ignoring alert on strangers

Young children and their parents are starting to ignore warnings about strangers, Childwatch, the national anti-child abuse organization, said yesterday.

The school holidays have brought alarming reports about unsupervised young children, some of whom have been approaching adult strangers, a Childwatch spokesman, Mr Bob Webster, said. Recent publicity about sexual abuse within the family could be making parents and children complacent about the danger on the streets.

Mr Webster, deputy headmaster of a junior high school in Hull, said: "Childwatch is alarmed about reports we are receiving which suggest that some parents are failing to supervise young children."

Incidents reported to Childwatch during the school holidays included:

- An unsupervised girl aged three approaching a man walking his dog in a park and asking him if she could go for a walk with them.
- A girl aged five found unsupervised and playing with the hand drier in a men's lavatory in a supermarket.
- A girl of seven approaching a man in the street and asking if he would buy her some sweets.

"There is a tendency now, with so much publicity being given recently to the fact that 85 to 90 per cent of abuse takes place within the home, that complacency about the other dangers is growing," Mr Webster said.

## Scots child care law to be reviewed

By Kerry Gill

The law on child care in Scotland is to be reviewed, Mr Michael Forsyth, the Scottish minister with responsibility for social work, announced yesterday. The main aim is to see how the law can be simplified.

Scotland's system of children hearings, set up in 1971, will continue and is still considered the best way of dealing with children who

need some kind of compulsory care.

It is unlikely that the child abuse crisis in Cleveland would have happened in Scotland where procedures are more carefully monitored.

A social worker has to obtain a place of safety order after first having discussed the matter with either the police or a doctor. The order must be

granted by a justice of the peace.

However, once that order has been granted and a child taken into care, the matter is immediately referred to the reporter of a children's panel. A full hearing is then held.

The review will look at the possibility of allowing children aged 16 and over to refer themselves into care without parental consent.

## Daughter 'hid from Parkinson'

The daughter of Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, stayed in a London squat after collapsing from a heroin overdose because she was terrified her father would find out, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Mark Lewin, charged with possessing heroin worth £1,000 with intent to supply drugs, told Southwark Crown Court in central London that Miss Mary Parkinson, aged 27, stopped breathing for 10 minutes after taking heroin at a flat in Kings Road, Chelsea.

He said he was visiting a friend at the flat when he found her slumped on the bathroom floor and resuscitated her. Later, he took her to a squat where she asked that her family should not be contacted.

Mr Lewin, aged 36 and of no fixed address, has denied possessing heroin. The trial continues.

## Negligence claims Professions call for inquiry

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The professions in England and Wales have asked the Government to set up an immediate inquiry into limiting their liability for damages awarded by the courts for negligence.

Their joint call, in a letter to Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, comes after news that doctors' subscriptions for medical negligence cover are to rise by 87 per cent and solicitors' insurance rates to rise by 35 per cent.

The heads of the professions, who represent solicitors, barristers, consulting engineers, patent agents, architects, chartered surveyors and accountants, say that their "increased exposure to liability" and "the increasing cost and diminishing availability of professional indemnity insurance" must have adverse effects on the services they provide.

It will also affect the usefulness of professionals' advice as they will "seek to provide it in a form that will limit their unreasonable exposure to claims".

Consulting engineers, the professions say, have faced a 150 per cent rise in the cost of insurance cover during the past three years and architects 200 per cent.

The letter, by Mr Alan Hardcastle, chairman of the heads of the professions, comes as doctors are putting increased pressure on the Government to look at a no-fault compensation scheme to deal with medical negligence claims.

Yesterday's call by the heads of the other professions is the group's second request for an inquiry within four months.

A delegation led by Mr Hardcastle put the case to Mr Paul Channon, Lord Young's

predecessor, at the end of April. The minister said then that although the Government still remained to be persuaded, no options had been ruled out.

As a result of rapidly rising costs and amounts borne by the insured before the insurer will meet any claim a number of firms and individuals have deliberately reduced their insurance cover or decided to do without it altogether.

"This increases the risk to professionals' clients, but is an understandable reaction," he says.

The group has the backing of Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, who in a debate in the Lords in March said: "We have extended the liability for negligence to an altogether excessive degree... where, even if there has been an error of judgement or any little mistake or mischance, the law holds the professional man negligent."

## School's siege room to reopen

By David Sapsted

The school classroom where Michael Ryan held police at bay before shooting himself will be opened for classes when the new term starts on September 8.

Mr David Lee, headmaster of John O'Gaunt comprehensive school in Hungerford, met staff and governors yesterday and decided that Room 6 should be opened as normal.

Mr Lee said: "We want things to return to normal as soon as possible. We realize some children may have special problems, but we are geared up to cope with them."

Mr Lee said there will be no special service for the dead when school returns. "A teacher speaking to 30 children in a classroom can get across a message far better than the head talking to 730 children."

## Fund will not pay Ryan's funeral costs

The funeral costs of Michael Ryan will not be paid for out of the Hungerford appeal fund, it was disclosed yesterday.

A spokesman for the fund, which stood at more than £167,000 last night, said it would be "quite inappropriate" to contribute to Ryan's funeral.

His uncle, Mr Stephen Fairbrass, said yesterday that the family would not ask for any money from the fund for burying either Ryan or his mother, Dorothy.

The three fund trustees were named yesterday as Mr Peter Dolphin, chairman of Newbury District Council; Mr Ken Culley, chief executive of the West of England Building Society; and Mr Gerald Ward, a Hungerford businessman.

## Town on verge of nervous breakdown

By David Sapsted

Hungerford, which today buries the first of its dead, was yesterday described as "a town on the verge of a nervous breakdown".

The head of a social service unit set up to help people over the emotional problems arising from last week's massacre said that more than 100 calls for assistance had already been received, many from people who had no direct association with the shooting.

Leaflets are to be distributed to every home in Hungerford by Berkshire social services telling the 5,000

residents where they can turn for help.

Mr Malcolm Ariotti, a spokesman for the council, said yesterday: "The message coming back to us from shop owners is that Hungerford is on the verge of a nervous breakdown."

Mr John Smith, co-ordinator of the family help unit set up in the wake of the shooting, said the counselling might take a year or longer. Group therapy sessions were being considered, he said, and added that he had asked social workers in Wiltshire, from where the family of Michael Ryan came, to help them to overcome their "shock and bewilderment".

Mr Smith added: "What we are likely to see in Hungerford is the manifestation of fear, helplessness, sadness, longing, guilt, shame and anger. What we have to get across is that there is nothing abnormal about this."

Counselling sessions are also being held for Hungerford's young people. Mrs Elizabeth Capewell, a youth and community officer, said yesterday that the John O'Gaunt youth centre - adjacent to the school where Ryan killed himself - would be open during the next three days to children who "just want to come in and talk".

## Help for Hungerford

## Town on verge of nervous breakdown

residents where they can turn for help. Mr Malcolm Ariotti, a spokesman for the council, said yesterday: "The message coming back to us from shop owners is that Hungerford is on the verge of a nervous breakdown."

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## Britain's firearms laws are more stringent than most

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Britain's gun laws are tighter than those of many countries, a survey of foreign embassies and correspondents abroad disclosed yesterday.

Switzerland: Authorization is needed to buy or carry arms, such as hunting guns, pistols and revolvers. Automatic weapons are seldom allowed in private hands.

But military duties mean that there are several hundred thousand guns in Swiss households.

Israel: Carrying a gun in an Israeli street is so common that nobody pays any attention, but those who carry them do so within set rules and procedures which can be checked at any time.

For the most part, they are service men with the right to take their weapons home. Since almost every adult male under the age of 55 does a month's compulsory military service each year, at some stage everyone has the right to carry a gun.

More controversially, those who live in West Bank settlements can easily obtain permission to carry a gun and frequently do so.

Denmark: The Danish Em-

bassy said that a small hunting gun without rifling could be held without permission over the age of 18. Antiques were also exempted. But official permission had to be sought for other guns. A knife with a blade of more than 12 centimetres is illegal.

The Danish home guard, which has 75,000 members, including 11,000 women, has always kept weapons with ammunition at home. Belgium: Private citizens can buy hunting and sporting guns with an easily obtainable permit. A strictly controlled licence is required for more powerful weapons.

Germany: Guns can be bought over the counter on presentation of a licence and a gun permit from the police or the state ministry concerned with public order.

In order to get such a permit, a sportsman-hunter has to be a member of a gun club or hunting association. But he can take the weapon home.

More powerful weapons are not available without a special very restricted licence. The Netherlands: Only sporting guns and hunting weapons are sold to the public and only on proof of membership of a gun club. No automatic weapons are available to the public.

Spain: Officially, there are about 15,000 Spaniards, out of a population of more than 38 million, who are licensed to carry arms, including revolvers, rifles and pistols, and, naturally, excluding the security services. It is illegal to sell such weapons over the shop counter without a licence. But any Spaniard aged over 18, may apply for permission.

## Increased sale orders for Kalashnikov rifle

By Andrew Morgan

British gun dealers are still ordering the Chinese Kalashnikov from the country's sole importer a week after Michael Ryan used one during the killing of 16 people in Hungerford.

Mr Mick Ranger, the arms dealer who imported the Chinese type 56 semi-automatic rifle sold to Ryan, said he had sold 12 similar weapons to shops since the massacre.

Of these, eight had been ordered before the Berkshire tragedy, but dealers had subsequently confirmed the orders, confident they would be able to sell them before any possible announcement from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

A further four rifles were ordered at the weekend from other dealers, but none was in the Berkshire area.

Mr Ranger said that the rise in sales of the guns, which are offered for £295 in the *Gun Mart* magazine, was "pure coincidence" not linked to an unhealthy interest. Mr Ranger has about 70 such rifles on his Hertfordshire premises, as well as a number of other semi-automatic weapons, including Chinese M16s.

Mr Ranger said sales of semi-automatic pistols were

## Family on ferry told of tragedy

By Howard Foster

A family who lost two relatives in the Hungerford massacre yesterday described their shock when fellow British tourists on board a cross-Channel ferry told them about the 16 killings.

Mr Malcolm Bray and his wife Pat were returning from France when they were shown a newspaper photograph of their son-in-law and his family emerging from a church service held in Hungerford.

The son-in-law, Mr Colin Mason, lost both his parents during Michael Ryan's rampage.

The Brays - who cut short their touring holiday because their daughter was suffering from sunstroke - had seen no newspapers or television while abroad.

They left behind in France their elder daughter Linda and son-in-law Mr Kevin Drinkwater who were yesterday believed to be in Monaco, unaware that Ryan had burnt down their home.

Mr Bray said: "We boarded the ferry on Monday evening and fell into conversation with some other British people. When we mentioned Hungerford, everybody said: 'Oh, where the massacre was? How awful for you.'"

"They showed us a British newspaper and we recognized our son-in-law and our family in a picture on the front page."

The Brays were then put through on a ship-to-shore telephone line to relatives.

The row of burnt-out houses where Michael Ryan shot his mother and killed her neighbours, Rowland and Sheila Mason, will be bulldozed as soon as the Drinkwaters return from holiday and give their permission. Newbury District Council said yesterday.

The council owns the terraced row, with the exception of the Drinkwater home.





## BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Reports by Pearce Wright  
and Thomson Prentice

## Aids and herpes

Search for cure could use  
'super race' techniques

The search for a cure for Aids, herpes and other viral diseases could lead to genetic manipulation of the type that scientists would employ to produce a "super race" of people, a drug company expert told the British Association meeting in Belfast yesterday.

The goal of selecting and removing specific human genes linked to the diseases in infected individuals would raise serious ethical and moral questions "perhaps as difficult to answer as those relating to Aids itself", Dr Michael Hall said.

"It would mean that we could manipulate at will the human genetic pool, produce super races, modify ethnic traits, create socially unacceptable habits - in fact produce people to order."

Although such advances could help to eliminate some inherited diseases, Dr Hall added: "The potential for abuse is real and there must be many who hope that such technologies are never developed."

Dr Hall, head of the chemotherapy division of the Roche Products pharmaceutical company, at Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, was talk-

ing on the prospects for effective drugs against Aids, herpes and other diseases caused by viruses.

He said this "brave new world" might never happen, but it could result from the rapid development of genetic engineering techniques. More realistically, the advances were likely to lead to more effective drugs against Aids.

"Ten or 15 years ago, these techniques were unavailable and we would have been

**Aids in the USSR.....6**  
**Science report.....12**

almost helpless in the face of the advance of Aids. At least we can now see and understand the enemy as the first step in its defeat."

Among the many thousands of viruses which cause several hundred human diseases the Aids-causing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) was probably now the best understood only five years after it was first identified, Dr Hall said.

The catalyst for this "explosive growth of knowledge" was the sociological and economic concern about the epidemic spread of the disease.

Advances in genetic engineering had given greater insights into viral molecular biology than could have been imagined 10 years ago. The result was that anti-viral drug research had been catapulted from "a relatively minor and somewhat leisurely pursuit", to the top priority of many drug companies and research institutes around the world.

"In certain respects progress has been spectacular."

However, the herpes and Aids viruses were among the most complex and sophisticated, posing huge problems for drug development. They were able to invade the body's nervous system and lie dormant for years if not for the lifetime of the infected individual. Both could hide within human cells, inducing disease from entrenched positions.

Drugs developed to treat herpes in the past 10 years had been unsuccessful either because of their unexpected toxicity or their lack of activity. In addition the arrival of the Aids epidemic had diverted a very significant part of the scientific effort away from herpes drug development, Dr Hall said.

While there was "very real hope" of producing drugs to control the symptoms of herpes and Aids infection by preventing or depressing the rate of virus multiplication in the body, the latency of the viruses was still the biggest problem, he said.

The search for a herpes vaccine had failed in spite of 66 years of research. The Aids virus was presenting "unexpectedly difficult problems", he said. "It is too soon to say if an HIV vaccine can be developed but the prospects look some years away."

Meanwhile, mankind would have to learn to live with Aids and herpes in the hope that public education and prevention measures would contain the "alarming increase" in new patients and carriers.

In the case of Aids, drugs now being developed would reduce the infectiousness of those people with the disease and hence its spread. "It is here that the efforts of chemists are truly at the leading edge in the battle for health, not just in Britain but in the world as a whole", Dr Hall said.



Professor Michael Crawford, yesterday advocating the benefits of eating fish - see evolution, below.

## Heart disease

Plea for campaign  
to warn people of  
deadly menace

Coronary heart disease is killing more people than the great medieval plagues did, but the Government is doing little to reduce the death toll, a leading specialist said yesterday.

About 150,000 people die prematurely in Britain each year from heart conditions, but the incidence of the disease could be reduced by two-thirds through effective prevention campaigns, Dr Michael Scott said.

However, while other countries such as the United States, Australia and Finland have been running successful prevention campaigns for many years, Britain "has just awakened to the need for action", he said.

"One might think that with the recognition of the huge death toll and with our existing knowledge about the important causes of coronary heart disease, prevention would long have been an issue of national importance", Dr Scott said. "Incredibly, the Government has until recently done little but deliberate about prevention."

Dr Scott is consultant cardiologist at Belfast City Hospital. Northern Ireland has the world's highest death rate from heart disease and Britain as a whole is among the worst affected nations.

Dr Scott called for a long-term, two-pronged national campaign aimed at both the

"high risk" groups - those affected by smoking, diet, high blood pressure and a family history of heart disease - and the general population.

Such a campaign would be costly, but the Government had consistently spent less than 1 per cent of the health service budget on prevention, while the cost of treating coronary disease in England and Wales alone was £390 million two years ago, he said.

Dr Scott quoted the World Health Organization view that in the past 50 years heart disease had become the "greatest world-wide epidemic ever to sweep the earth".

"This is now killing more people than did the great plagues of the Middle Ages."

If cigarette smoking could be eliminated, the incidence of the disease would fall by one third. A modest drop in the whole population's blood pressure and cholesterol levels could lead to a further one-third reduction in incidence.

"Ultimately the Government bears some responsibility for the health of its citizens. This is normally discharged through the health and social services. However, I believe everyone who is qualified should be involved. This includes schools, places of employment and places where people go for recreation", Dr Scott said.

A serious  
side to  
laughter  
Conference  
news  
in brief

Laughter is an essential, as well as the best, medicine if the latest ideas of Dr Jonathan Miller are any guide.

In a customary breath-taking performance, Dr Miller made a fleeting return to science yesterday, engaging a packed audience of the British Association on a "serious laughing matter".

He was introducing a two-day meeting on the science of humour. In an argument packed with anecdotes from his years with *Beyond the Fringe*, in medical practice and as a theatrical producer, he argued that laughter has a "biological pay-off" for the individual.

Rejecting the theory of laughter as a release for pent-up emotions, he saw humour as a mental "sabbatical".

He gave the example of a cartoon showing two explorers in Africa, in pith helmets, up to their necks in a swamp. The caption was "Quicksand or not, Carruthers, I've half a mind to struggle". In the item on civil defence, the comedian, Dudley Moore, planted in the audience, asked: "Following the nuclear holocaust, how long will it take for public services to be resumed?" The answer was "After Armageddon, as soon as possible, but it will be a bit of a skeleton service".

Another side of humour comes from an international survey by Professor Christie Davies, a Welsh sociologist, of the "Irish Joke Phenomenon". In fact, he says there is no Irish joke; it is an international one.

His studies show that in days when people had a local rather than an ethnic identity, jokes about stupidity were told about the inhabitants of particular "fooltowns" or villages.

The use of an ethnic group to introduce the stupidity into a script is ideal for a comic to convey just the right amount of information.

If a joke begins: "Two morons were travelling on a train..." the idea of stupidity is introduced too obviously at the beginning of the joke.

● Northern Ireland could be the scene of the next gold rush. Digging has already begun in the Sperrin mountains, 50 miles from Belfast, where a million tons of gold-bearing ore has been discovered.

Production is likely to begin next year and the potential extraction of a quarter pound of gold a ton of ore is enough to prompt one mining company to invest £6 million worth of machinery.

● The fallout in Britain of radiation from Chernobyl is trivial compared with the annual dose from natural radiation, Mr Michael O'Riordan, of the National Radiological Protection Board, says.

Surveys are being carried out to identify which areas have the highest household levels of naturally occurring radon gas, a radioactive element that seeps from the ground and accumulates in buildings through porous materials such as masonry.

Devon and Cornwall have radon levels four or five times the national average which have been interpreted as amounting to a 2 per cent risk of death in an individual's lifetime compared with a 25 per cent risk from all cancers.

● Vaccines could soon be developed against parasitic worms which afflict up to a quarter of the world's population in tropical and sub-tropical countries.

"There is now hope for a practical means of controlling these devastating scourges", Professor Derek Wakelin, of Nottingham University's zoology department, said.

● Since civil unrest began in Northern Ireland in 1969 more than 2,600 people have been killed and 100,000 of the population of 1.5 million have been injured.

Psychological studies of the effects show, remarkably, that levels of psychiatric disorder are roughly similar to other parts of the world. However a study by Dr Ed Cairns and Dr Ronnie Wilson, Ulster psychologists, concludes that "political violence has had a significant adverse influence on mental health".

## Evolution

Diet theory in the  
advance of man

Mankind learnt to think big by eating fish. The brainpower that separates Homo sapiens from the apes was the result of diet, a new theory says.

The key role that minerals and other nutrients played in human evolution was outlined by Professor Michael Crawford, of the Institute of Zoology in London, at the conference.

He said the signposts had become obvious from studies of nutrition and health problems in western and Third World countries. In technically advanced countries, one in three or four men will have a heart attack or stroke before the age of retirement. In developing countries, about 12 million children will die in 1987 from "nutrition-related diseases".

Understanding the effects of nutrition had changed some views of evolution, he said.

He described the formation of life on earth when all developing organisms enjoyed a rich chemical environment. The struggle for survival came in a later phase when specific resources on which evolution depended became scarce.

Professor Crawford said the chemistry of savannah species showed they were faced with progressive deficiencies in nutrients necessary for the development of the brain.

Although they evolved into larger and larger animals, the trend in body size was associated with a contraction in the relative size of the brain.

By contrast, evolving man occupied areas bordering seas and lakes, providing him with an abundance of the specialized chemicals required for brain construction, including polyunsaturated fats, from fresh fish and shellfish.



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## WORLD SUMMARY

## Dali works may be given to Spain

Madrid — Captain Peter Moore, Salvador Dali's former agent, intends to give Spanish museums about 300 works of art by the surrealist master, including 40 oil paintings (Richard Wiseman writes). He said yesterday that because he and his wife, Catherine, have no immediate heirs it seemed logical to place the paintings where they would be most accessible to art lovers in Spain.

Captain Moore, an Irishman aged 69, who worked for the 83-year-old Catalan painter between 1960 and 1975, said his private collection stored in Geneva had been insured with Lloyds for \$5 million (£3 million) for a recent tour.

The paintings ranged over many years, he said, from a view of Cadagues painted in the 1920s to a 1975 portrait of King Juan Carlos and original drawings for *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Thousand and One Nights*.

## Elba jail revolt

Rome (AP) — Eight armed prisoners took hostage the prison director and 16 others yesterday on the Italian island of Elba, the Justice Ministry reported.

The prisoners, armed with pistols and knives, apparently seized from guards, threatened to kill their hostages if their demand for an armoured car was not met, a spokesman said.

After an urgent Cabinet meeting, the spokesman said the Government would try to settle the revolt "through persuasion and reason". The prison, which has 400 inmates, was ringed by police and the 86-square-mile island was surrounded by police motorboats.

## Yard sends more men

Colombo — More Scotland Yard detectives are due in Sri Lanka this week to assist with police investigations into the attempted assassination of President Jayawardene on August 18, the Communist Party daily *Aththa* reported yesterday (Vijitha Yapa writes). Two people were killed and 15 injured when two grenades were thrown at a meeting of the Government parliamentary group in Parliament last week. A member of the housekeeping section of Parliament, Mr S. Ransinghe, has been missing since the attack.

## Bofors to tell all

Stockholm (Reuters) — The Swedish Government, facing mounting criticism over the Bofors guns deal with India, pledged yesterday to make public all aspects of the controversial affair.

"There will be a thorough and public wash of all dirty linen in the weapons deal," Mr Sten Andersson, the Foreign Minister, wrote in the daily *Dagens Nyheter*.

Sweden's Prime Minister, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, has been under Indian pressure to investigate allegations that Bofors bribed Indian officials to win the £736 million contract.

## Lesbian minister

Washington — A United Methodist Church jury has suspended until June a lesbian minister found guilty of violating the church's ban on homosexual clergy (Christopher Thomas writes).

The Rev. Rose Mary Denman, right, aged 40, who had faced possible dismissal from her post in Dover, New Hampshire, said before the most lenient ruling possible that she intended to leave the church whatever the outcome.

## Arab League asks UN to push for Gulf peace

The League of Arab States yesterday called on the United Nations Security Council to take urgent steps to ensure the implementation of its resolution calling for a ceasefire in the war between Iran and Iraq.

In a resolution adopted at a closing plenary session after a three-day meeting in Tunis, League foreign ministers "invited" Iran to respond to peace appeals "and accept a settlement of the conflict by peaceful means, in conformity with the UN resolution demanding a ceasefire".

After threatening an Arab diplomatic boycott of Iran, the meeting finally decided to leave the crisis in UN hands. Iraq has accepted Security Council Resolution 598.

but Tehran's responses have been equivocal.

In New York the resolution was discussed by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Muhammad Jawad Laranjani, and the UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar.

The full list of Arab League members is Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Egypt's membership of the league was suspended in March 1979.

## Journalists battle for a scoop in war of logistics

Christopher Morris of the BBC describes it as "a highly competitive situation". David Phillips of the American NBC television network refers to it more aggressively as "a logistics war".

For the crews of the American, British and Soviet warships in the Gulf, whose movements are tracked by the television companies almost as earnestly as they are by the Iranian Navy, it must seem a little like a conflict in miniature, albeit one in which they are only peripherally involved.

But the media war in the Gulf — between the big American television networks and, to a somewhat more humble extent, between the BBC and ITN — is real enough.

British and American film crews are now flying over the Gulf and the waters off Fajrabad in up to 10 helicopter sorties a day, maintaining two crews in the supply ships to follow the Ameri-

## Jewish suspicion of 'dangerous' neo-Nazi fringe

By Andrew McEwen and John England

Outfitted and deprived of a totem, West German neo-Nazis appeared yesterday to have lost the first round of their fight to transform the death of Rudolf Hess into the rebirth of an ideology.

But the events of Wunsiedel have left a suspicion that they have been dismissed too quickly as a lunatic fringe.

Mr Arich Handler, a leading member of the British Jewish community, told *The Times*: "Their slogans are falling on very receptive ears. The Western powers will have to be extremely careful how they deal with them. One has to be sure that the public in Germany realizes that there is a continuing danger."

That risk may have been underestimated because of a superficially reassuring report from Bonn's Interior Ministry, which put the number of actively militant neo-Nazis at 1,460.

"Those are only the people who have the courage of their convictions to register," said Mr Handler, himself a German-born Jew who in 1938 and 1939 took part in the

evacuation of 10,000 young Jewish people to Britain.

Come down one level from the active militants, and the numbers multiply by 15. The same Bonn report showed a total of 73 neo-Nazi or extreme right-wing organizations with a total membership exceeding 22,000.

There are groups which, although not outwardly political, are seen as potentially receptive, including elements within some, but not all, ex-servicemen's groups.

"There are still those who defend the old values," said Mr Handler, a former chairman of the National Council for Soviet Jewry.

West Germany's neo-Nazis are divided among themselves and politically marginal. But the same could have been said of the tiny German Workers' Party in 1919, before it became the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (hence Nazi).

None of those urging vigilance suggests that an Adolf Hitler clone is waiting to repeat his feat of winning six

million votes in the 1930 election.

But an articulate young man wearing a tie and with neat short hair was telling others who would listen in Wunsiedel this week: "We are against parliamentary democracy. We want a strong leader at the head of an intimidating 'minder' and came from Munich, where so many people responded to Hitler's sharpening of the Germany Workers' Party's woolly mix of nationalism and socialism."

The contrast between such men and the leather-jacketed

skinheads who surround them broadly parrots the master-servant relationships of their mentors. Hitler viewed himself as an intellectual and artist, but relied on the muscle-power of dimmer men.

With their bare skulls, "bovver boots", and Nazi emblems, the skinheads par-

ody the bully boys who fought for power on the streets in the 1920s and early 1930s. There are about 2,500 of them, though the Bonn report says that only about 200 can be considered real neo-Nazis.

But they are vicious enough to injure and maim. Skinheads killed a young Turk in Hamburg last year, and four others are now on trial in Hanover accused of murdering one of their own.

Last year 77 acts of violence were attributed to neo-Nazi or extreme right groups, six more than in 1985.

Two neo-Nazi leaders have served prison sentences recently. Perhaps the most notorious of them, Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, founded a paramilitary group modelled on the Hitler Youth.

A spokesman for the Board of Deputies of British Jews said yesterday: "The numbers may be small but they are dangerous. There have been rumours for years that if Hess died in prison rather than as a free man they would take revenge."

"It needs to be remembered that Hess was Hitler's nomi-

nated successor and it was to him that the neo-Nazis looked for inspiration."

The largest group is the Deutsche Volks Union, which is less extreme than most others. It has about 12,000 members and is followed by the "middle aged" neo-Nazi National Democratic Party, with a now-static membership of 6,100.

The NPD, seen by the new hard men as having gone soft, did well in local elections 20 years ago, especially in Bavaria, where it polled up to 10 per cent. It then went downhill rapidly, and in recent years, including in federal polls, it has usually turned in only about 0.1 per cent.

The neo-Nazis are always trying to recreate Hitler's success as a propagandist. The Interior Ministry says that right-wing groups print 92 publications with a combined issue of 8.1 million copies.

Much of the content would get Hitler's approval. The ministry report commented: "The militant groups accept the use of force as a legitimate means of achieving their goals."

## Saudis launch harsh attack on Iran in aftermath of Mecca

From Marie Colvin, Jeddah

Saudi Arabia refused to back down from confrontation with Iran yesterday, holding a news conference unprecedented in this usually very closed country and offering harsh denunciations of Iran.

It was the Saudi shot in a media campaign aimed at countering Iran's charges that Saudi Arabia was responsible for the deaths of more than 300 pilgrims at Mecca in July.

Yesterday's press conference was arranged after Iran last week invited in foreign journalists to give its version of the Mecca events. Iran claims that the pilgrims, including 275 Iranians, were killed when Saudi police opened fire. The Saudis deny a shot was fired. The Saudis rarely take a confrontational position, but after the Mecca riot they have evidently decided there is no more accommodating Ayatollah Khomeini's regime.

The two could not be more at odds. Not only are they rivals for power in the Gulf but the Ayatollah wants to spread his brand of Shia revolutionary Islam, anathema to the conservative and Sunni Muslim house of Saud.

The Mecca riot was a watershed. Yesterday Prince Nayef bin Abdul Azz, the Interior Minister, denounced Iran. He reiterated Saudi Arabia's claim that the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca provoked the confrontation on direct orders from Iran.

The Prince revealed for the first time that the Saudis had tried to work out a compromise even though they had political demonstrations at Mecca. He said they were given the word of Ayatollah Khomeini's representative in

Mecca that if a demonstration was allowed it would stop before a "red line" short of the Holy Mosque. Only when the Iranians tried to enter the Mosque did the Saudi guards move to stop them, he said.

The Interior Minister did not hesitate to put Allah on the side of the Saudi regime.

Dubai — High winds, heat haze and sandstorms blowing across the Gulf of Oman yesterday hid the movement of America's latest convoy in the Gulf (Robert Fisk writes). But three US-flagged Kuwaiti tankers — the 290,085-tonne *Middleton*, the 81,283-tonne *Surf City* and the 79,999-tonne *Chesapeake City* — were reported earlier to be making their way under naval escort towards the Strait of Hormuz from the anchorage off Fajrabad.

The US Navy, which escorted the mine-damaged supertanker *Bridgeton* with only 60 per cent of its normal oil capacity — through the strait to the Gulf of Oman yesterday, now faces another voyage up to Kuwait. Iranian radar does not extend as far as the anchorage, and the convoys are keeping radio silence.

He said: "The Iranian regime masterminded the bloody sedition in the Holy Sanctuary, the seditions which Allah helped us to put out and spare the Mecca pilgrims."

"Iran has misinterpreted the Kingdom's display of patience as weakness," he said. Asked about Iranian threats, he said: "We are sure Iran does not want to go to war with Saudi Arabia," firmly indicating that Saudi Arabia was ready to do just

that should it have to defend itself against Iran.

And, in what observers here said was one of the strongest statements made by a Saudi official, he said: "The Kingdom hopes, praise to God, to remove from Iran the authority that sends the people of Iran to their deaths." That directly mirrored Ayatollah Khomeini's call to "uproot the Saudi regime" because of its role in Mecca.

The partisan audience of mostly Arab journalists applauded when the Prince said Iran should be fighting Israel, not another Islamic nation, Iraq. And there was clapping again when he said no mediation was going on between Iran and Saudi Arabia. There have been press reports of behind-the-scenes mediating by Syria.

The Saudis are taking Iran's threats as a direct challenge. The Prince said he thought Iran's short-term aim in provoking the Mecca riot was to prove that the ruling family could not guarantee the safety of the mosques in Medina and Mecca, Islam's two most holy places.

PARIS: Mme Paul Torri, the wife of the French consul who has been accused by Iran of espionage, returned to Paris yesterday with her 2½-month-old baby, after being held in the French Embassy in Tehran for nearly two months (Diana Geddes writes).

However, French diplomatic sources indicated yesterday that Mme Torri's release did not hold out any new hope for an early end to the stalemate. Nine French citizens with diplomatic passports are still imprisoned in the Tehran Embassy.

## Hostage pleads for a swap

From John England, Bonn

mad Ali Hamadei after liquid explosives were found in his baggage on his arrival from Lebanon. They said they would be held until Bonn freed Mr Hamadei.

The United States pressed Bonn to extradite him for trial for hijacking a TWA airliner in 1985 and the murder of an American passenger, but Bonn announced in June that Mr Hamadei would face trial in Frankfurt charged with air piracy and murder as well as the explosives count.

Herr Schmidt, bearded and with his head shaven, said on his four-minute tape, which was dated July 23, that it was a "positive action" by the kidnappers in response to Bonn's decision not to extradite Mr Hamadei. He pleaded with the Government to give serious

## Space bid by black woman



Dr Mae Jemison, the first black American woman to be chosen as an astronaut candidate, inside a space shuttle trainer at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston yesterday. She was one of 15 new candidates presented to the press before starting their training programme.

## Talks start in black mine strike

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The first move towards conciliation in South Africa's two-week strike at its most valuable gold and coal mines came yesterday when the Chamber of Mines, the employers' body, and the black National Union of Mineworkers met here.

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, the union's leader, said the strike had not been called off, but progress had been made. Both sides agreed to meet again today for further negotiations on the strike, which has hit at least 44 of the 99 mines that are members of the chamber.

At least six people have been killed and nearly 400 injured during the strike. According to the union, about 200 others have been arrested, most of them union officials, in incidents in which the regular police have gone to the aid of mine security units.

The talks at the Chamber of Mines headquarters in Johannesburg yesterday were besieged by about 250 striking miners. Strikers from the Randfontein Estates gold mine, east of Johannesburg, and the Western Deep Levels mine arrived by busloads.

There were tense scenes as the city's traffic police — a municipal force totally separate from the regular police — moved in to try to control the ensuing chaos in the streets. However, as the miners gathered and chanted slogans, the traffic police, through a mixture of gentle persuasion and tact, persuaded them to disperse.

It was an object lesson in how so many other instances of confrontation between the authorities and the volatile black majority should have been handled in the last two years.

## Reagan questions Managua's intent

From David Gollob, Managua

President Reagan, in a rare radio broadcast to Nicaragua on Monday night, voiced scepticism about the willingness of the Sandinista Government to comply with the peace pact signed in Guatemala this month, which carries the obligation of a restoration of democratic freedom.

But the speech, in English with Spanish translation, was jammed by the Nicaraguan authorities. Few people are likely to have heard the programme, carried on Radio Libertación, the station run by the Contras with funds approved by the US Congress.

Mr Reagan, who promised to continue supporting the Contras until Nicaraguans "are guaranteed basic liberties", said the hopes kindled by the peace agreement "will be measured against reality" and that "promises will be measured against peace".

He added: "The Sandinistas have agreed that the repression must stop at the same time as the fighting stops. The Sandinistas have told us that before, but no one believes them any more."

Mr Reagan did not say if the US would end support for the Contras if the Nicaraguan Government lifted a state of emergency and restored civil liberties, as outlined in the Guatemala accord.

Under the agreement, signed by five Central American presidents on August 7, suspension of foreign support for anti-Government rebels is to take effect on November 7, at the same time as the regional ceasefire and restoration of civil liberties.

The Nicaraguan Government has repeatedly accused the US, which did not sign the

Guatemala pact, of seeking to obstruct the peace process. It is likely to view the broadcast of a speech by Mr Reagan on a Contra-run radio station as provocative.

Radio Libertación broadcasts daily from a 15,000-watt transmitter thought to be in neighbouring El Salvador. Its programmes — a mix of news, light entertainment and propaganda — is normally jammed in the capital. But reception in the countryside is normally good.

The state-controlled media have recently launched a campaign accusing diplomats at the US Embassy in Managua of recruiting Nicaraguan journalists to send news dispatches to Radio Libertación. North American officials have denied the charges.

WASHINGTON: The Nicaraguan Government was accidentally forewarned by the White House of Mr Reagan's broadcast over the Contras' radio station, giving the Sandinistas ample time to set up jamming equipment (Christopher Thomas writes).

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, announced at a press briefing in California, where the President has been on holiday, that Mr Reagan had already delivered a personal message of "peace and freedom" over Radio Libertación.

Within minutes, officials telephoned Mr Fitzwater from Washington, saying the broadcast was still to be delivered and that the Nicaraguans would almost certainly jam it. It was decided to go ahead with it anyway. "I got the day wrong and simply made a mistake in announcing it," Mr Fitzwater said.



## Pretoria worries about prison deaths

## Move to free guerrilla chief fuels Mandela speculation

From Nicholas Beeston, Cape Town

The South African Government is considering the imminent release of an ageing black guerrilla leader from prison, fuelling speculation in government and diplomatic circles that President Botha is exploring ways of freeing the African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

Sources indicated this week that Govan Mbeki, aged 76, a leader of the military wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe, will be freed from prison possibly in the coming weeks and probably before the end of the year.

Mbeki, who has been serving a life sentence since 1963, is a contemporary of Mandela's and diplomatic sources said his release "could be a test case" for Mandela.

"It is clear that the Govern-

ment is very anxious to release Mandela, but they are still trying to find ways of doing it," one Western diplomat said in Cape Town.

In the past, South Africa has made Mandela's release conditional on his renouncing violence. But during President Botha's Budget speech earlier this month he said such a condition was not "decisive in its own right".

In Mbeki's case, the Government is known to be concerned about his failing health and is worried about a backlash at home and abroad if he dies in prison.

The fears are even greater for Mandela, aged 69, who has been in prison for 25 years.

"He is in good health and

mentally very active," one government source said. "But if he catches so much as a cold they rush him off to hospital."

Diplomats believe that the Government may embark on a policy of freeing lesser political prisoners to soften the impact of Mandela's release. "The problem is that no one knows what political impact his release would have on the black community," one source said.

Observers feel, however, that in some ways Mandela's return to the mainstream of black politics could harm the organization's present leadership by creating a power struggle between him and the exiled leaders, such as Mr Oliver Tambo, in Lusaka, and the younger leadership inside

South Africa, including his wife, Mrs Winnie Mandela.

An additional factor favouring a release is President Botha's eagerness to form a national council, which is intended to include leading moderate members of the black community. So far black moderates have insisted that they cannot sit on such a body until the "real leaders" are freed from prison.

President Botha has already asked the Ministry of Justice to look into Mbeki's case. He said that as far as other prisoners were concerned "periodic consideration will be given, in accordance with all other relevant factors".

The cloudy message has been interpreted as a clear signal that the Government is prepared to alter its position.

## Botha expected to act against 'meddling' envoys

Cape Town — Western embassies in South Africa are bracing themselves for possible action by the Government against what it sees as meddling by some diplomats in the country's affairs (Nicholas Beeston writes).

The hint of such action emerged earlier this month when President Botha said that he might impose travel restrictions and other limitations on "certain members of

staff of specific embassies".

Government sources have indicated this week that in particular South Africa is upset by the activities of diplomats at anti-Government functions organized by groups such as the United Democratic Front. Foreign embassies are also known to have increased their staff who monitor black politics in South Africa and who speak the local black dialects.

One Western diplomat said: "Botha is perfectly capable of trying to mitigate the role of

Western embassies and may take action."

Government sources said Pretoria was particularly upset by the presence of some diplomats at anti-Government functions organized by groups such as the United Democratic Front. Foreign embassies are also known to have increased their staff who monitor black politics in South Africa and who speak the local black dialects.

The Government warning comes hand-in-hand with proposed legislation that would limit foreign funding for extra-parliamentary groups such as the UDF and the Institute for Democratic Alternative in South Africa, which held talks with the outlawed African National Congress in Dakar last month. Funding for that journey has since been traced to some Western foundations and European governments.

## Haiti mob turns on Catholic priests

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) — Haiti's interim Government said yesterday that it deplored Monday's attack on four priests in a northern Haitian town and other violence which has left hundreds dead in recent months.

The Information Minister, Mr Gerard Noel, said that a hostile crowd attacked and wounded the priests in the provincial town of St Marc, 60 miles north of Port-au-Prince. Three of the priests were in hospital, and a fourth was slightly hurt.

A witness said that the crowd, some of them armed, hurled stones and smashed the windshield of the car in which the priests were travelling.

## Danes for trial

Warsaw (Reuters) — Two Danes, Jens Ellekær, aged 36, a businessman, and Niels Hemmingsen, a 23-year-old student, held in a Polish jail since April, are to go on trial early next month on espionage charges that could carry the death penalty.

## Case closed

Linz, Austria (Reuters) — The former Nazi death camp guard Martin Bartsch cannot be prosecuted for shooting an inmate of Mathausen camp, near Linz, in 1943, Austria's statute of limitations rules that he cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of more than 30 years, a provincial court decided here.

## Famine threat

Maputo (Reuters) — More than 600,000 people face starvation in northern Mozambique because rebels have cut food supply lines and brought farming to a halt, the Maputo newspaper Noticias reported.

## UN man killed

Tyre (AP) — A UN soldier was killed and three others wounded when unidentified attackers ambushed them on the main road in Kafra, in south Lebanon.

## Cholera hint

Belgrade (AP) — Yugoslav health authorities are giving leaflets to travellers to Romania, warning them to watch for symptoms of cholera.

## Tunnel deaths

Peking (Reuters) — At least three rail workers died when a train carrying oil caught fire after being derailed in a tunnel near Lanzhou in north-west China.

## Paper barred

Khartoum (Reuters) — A leading Sudanese newspaper, al-Siyassa, has been suspended indefinitely for failing to back up allegations that an unnamed government minister was paid to reveal his own political party's secrets.

## Fire dragon

Peking (Reuters) — Firemen quelled a three-hour blaze in a hall of Peking's ancient Forbidden City after lightning struck a stone dragon's head on a rooftop.

## Taxing error

Manila (Reuters) — Melchor Javier, to whom a bank paid \$1 million in error 10 years ago, has been sentenced to six years' jail for not paying taxes.

## Human rights in Kenya

## Plea for action on journalist arrested at Nairobi court

By Paul Valley

Amnesty International has made an appeal for urgent action over the case of a journalist detained without trial in Nairobi while investigating allegations of human rights abuses by the Kenyan Government of President Moi.

Last week the Government announced that Mr Paul Amia, a Kenyan freelance journalist who works mainly for Western media, including Reuters and the BBC, had been detained under the Preservation of Public Security Act which allows for indefinite detention. No reason for his imprisonment was given by the authorities.

A spokesman for Amnesty International told The Times yesterday that Mr Amia was arrested outside the High Court in Nairobi where he had been attempting to report the case brought by the widow of Stephen Mbaraka Karanja, a farmer who was shot dead in police custody and whose body has disappeared.

Mrs Karanja is attempting to sue the head of Nairobi's Criminal Investigation Department for contempt of court after his failure to produce the

body as ordered by the High Court.

That was on August 4. The following day Mr Amia was taken by the security forces to the offices of Reuters and West German Radio where they asked correspondents to produce samples of Mr Amia's work. They were not given any.

Mr Amia is the fifth journalist to be arrested since the Kenyan Government began its crackdown on dissenters in March 1986. The other four all subsequently pleaded guilty to various political offences and have been jailed.

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## Protest at the Western Wall



A rabbi losing his hat in a scuffle at the sacred Western Wall in Jerusalem. The incident happened as thousands of ultra-Orthodox rabbis, staging a "pray-in" against the showing of films on the Sabbath, jostled for position to see one of their leaders, the Rabbi of Gur.

## Israel Lavi project loses chief supporter

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Another nail has been driven into the coffin of Israel's controversial Lavi fighter aircraft with the apparent acceptance by Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, of the inevitability of the scrapping of the project.

Mr Peres, almost alone among Labour's leadership, has been one of the staunchest supporters of the aircraft, which the military establishment now says it no longer wants and which the Treasury says Israel cannot afford.

But he is now proposing a number of ideas that would entail discontinuing the development of the Lavi while minimizing the damage to the Israel Aircraft Industry with which he has been closely associated.

In a series of meetings this week with Mr Moshe Nissim, the Finance Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, Mr Peres has proposed redirecting the Israel Aircraft Industry's research and development towards an even more advanced fighter for the next century, while keeping production capacity intact through local production of the American F16 aircraft.

Observers here yesterday were sceptical about the practicality of Mr Peres's proposals, viewing them essentially as a ladder to enable him to climb down from his former unqualified support for the Lavi.

The Cabinet is expected to discuss the future of the project at its next meeting on Sunday, with still no certainty that a final decision will be taken then.

## Aids test for all in Russia

Moscow (Reuters) — The Supreme Soviet, the country's Parliament, has decreed compulsory Aids testing of Soviet citizens and foreigners and set jail terms for people who knowingly pass on the deadly virus, Tass said yesterday.

The decree said: "Soviet citizens, as well as foreigners, who knowingly pass on the deadly virus, Tass said yesterday.

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## SPECTRUM

## Bowing to the old master

Antonio Stradivari of Cremona, who crafted the world's finest stringed instruments, died 250 years ago.

Brian James follows six violins back to their birthplace for a unique exhibition

The greatest collection of musical instruments made by the incomparable master is back in the city where each was crafted. Any day now, the first of the fakes is certain to arrive.

Violins, cellos and guitars, 37 of the best examples of the thousands of classic instruments made by the loving hand and eye of Antonio Stradivari, are assembled in the medieval City Palace in Cremona, in whose shadow the genius lived until his death exactly 250 years ago.

The anniversary is being marked by a six-week exhibition, opening today, of his instruments and the tools that made them, and by a series of concerts in which some of the world's greatest violin virtuosos will share the limelight just this once with the tools of their trade.

Instruments from all over the world have been arriving for days. Some have been carried by professional splomb by representatives of the handful of dealers qualified and confident enough to deal with a "Strad", the best of which would bring more than a million dollars; the rest have been carried by white-knuckled concern by private owner-collectors.

The entire collection is worth not less than £25 million. The six violins which I followed from London were carried with staged nonchalance in canvas-covered double cases by three casually-dressed young employees of Britain's best-known dealer; guitars for some camp-fire sing-song, perhaps.

Their collective value? "Say, around £2,500,000." The strain? "Only on the M4. Saw two crashes. These were on the back seat. So, sure, I began thinking 'What if...'" said Peter Beare, of the London dealers J & A Beare.

Money was the last thing anyone wanted to dwell upon as the collection grew and each glass case accepted its glowing golden prize. Dealers, couriers, collectors were in raptures; discovering or remembering the colour and "flame" of the patina, the form and harmony of the shaping, the detail and guile of the carving.

None could say what made a Strad a Strad; why one craftsman

should stand above all the others who had huddled in workshops around the Lombardy city's huge bell tower, developing the instrument invented by the Cremonese Amati family in the 16th century. The secret of the tons of Stradivari's varnish, his shaping, his depth of tone, are as much the subject of debate as they were at the hour of his death in 1737, for he died both famous and unexplained.

What is as mysterious is why, of all works of incomparable genius, that of Antonio Stradivari should be so subject to the fakes' skill. Cremona staged a smaller exhibition of the masterworks in 1937. Contemporary reports describe how, like penitents to a shrine, scores of unknown "Strad" owners came hopefully to town, only to learn that their heirlooms had formed part of, say, an orange box, not so long before. "It is quite certain to be the same here," said Charles Beare, the British expert and dealer whose idea this exhibition was.

Beare, as president of the scientific committee, has been responsible for the two-year task of prizing the instruments from the city museums and private vaults where they usually rest.

"I get, on average, three letters a week from someone claiming to have a Strad. Usually from somewhere like Louisiana. Usually on lined notepaper. And always with some detail that is supposed to clinch the claim, like: 'I know it must be genuine, because my Dad brought it back from Europe after the First World War.'"

"We even had one violin brought to us from America which carried the name of Stradivari, followed by the words 'Made in Czechoslovakia'. We pointed this out to the now-impoorished new owner. There was a pause, then: 'So the guy never took a vacation?' No, really, I swear."

Professor Andrea Mosconi, the festival's artistic director and curator of the Stradivari museum, says similar "finds" have been reported to him several times a week for the past 20 years. None has been the real thing.

There is an irony about this



Six of the best: Andrea Mosconi (left) and Charles Beare and the "Strads" worth £2,500,000

present unrivalled collection of genuine Strads, for it includes the instrument — the "Parke", made in 1711 — which could be said to have fathered a thousand fakes. In the hands of French owners in the 1840s, its classic form and colouring was professedly copied by two great Parisian violin-makers out of nothing but admiration and respect. The subsequent "reflagging",

with carefully-aged "Stradivari" labels, was the work of later crooks. The exhibition presents visitors with a tour of the master's life (the exhibits are arranged in date order from the 1670 "Tullaye" he made in his twenties, via the great violins of his seventies to the later instruments, on which the quavers of age on the decorative purfling can be detected). Much of the fascina-

tion is in the stories of the instruments, all of them named, often after their most famous owner.

There is the 1713 "Gibson", stolen from Carnegie Hall in 1936. Watching it being placed in its case, Marcelle Hall of Washington DC told again the story of how her late husband, Julian Altman, had on his death bed confessed that he had

bought the instrument for \$100 the day after the theft, and had since used it making a living playing gypsy music in shady cafes.

"I asked him to describe the 'friend' who stole the violin," Ms Hall said. "He described a good-looking guy, great with the ladies, always on the drink, always short of dough, always with a great line of talk. He was describing himself, the bastard. He took it. I have no doubt. I saw it left a million times on the top of the bar. It got beer slopped on it. It got bashed. But I never saw it like this — glowing. It's a lovely thing... I am just so glad he had the grace to save it right at the end."

Among the cellos are the "Cristiani", named after a teenage virtuoso of the 1840s for whom Mendelssohn wrote his "Song Without Words", and the 1710 instrument seized by the Nazis from the Rothschild family and only discovered after much detective work by Baroness Clarice de Rothschild.

There is the 1719 "Cremonese", the violin to which Brahms dedicated his incomparable first violin concerto. This instrument will be taken from its case for the final festival concert in October, when Salvatore Accardo will use it to perform... the Brahms.

Surprisingly, few of these great instruments are owned by current virtuosos, though Itzhak Perlman has lent his beloved 1714 "Sol", and Anne-Sophie Mutter her "spare" 1703 Stradivari. Much more typical, according to Charles Beare, is the amateur music lover who "makes a fortune in oil and then indulges himself in a million-dollar Stradivari to get the best possible sound when he plays 'Three Blind Mice'."

Dr Ephraim Engelman is far beyond "Three Blind Mice". Something of a child prodigy, he was playing on stage to accompany silent films at the age of 12. "Then the talkies came in. My mother made me give up music and go to medical college," Dr Engelman bought a \$10,000 Amati violin many years ago, and by judicious trading up now owns a violin by the other Cremonese, Giuseppe "del Gesù" Guarneri, and the superb 1709 "Lacombé" Strad on which he practises daily.

"You a fiddle-player? No? Then you wouldn't begin to know what it means to own a thing like that. And that's why I wouldn't even let you hold it. Don't feel bad," added the nice Dr Engelman. "There are not more than a handful of people in the world I would let touch my violin. Someone like Pinchas Zuckerman, maybe... for a minute or two."

## Quest for a cloud

While Britain's summer looks like a washout, India is praying for a storm

The failure of the monsoon, possibly the worst this century, is causing widespread concern in India. It is nearly two months late and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has warned that although the country has adequate stockpiles of food, 15 million people in the rural areas could be put out of work.

Half the world's population, living in the tropics and sub-tropics, relies on the summer monsoon. India gets as much as three quarters of its rain from this source.

In a normal year, the monsoon bursts on the Malabar coast in the south at the end of May, reaching New Delhi by the beginning of July.

The last poor year was 1982, while 1972 and 1967 were also bad. There is some evidence that in recent decades the rains have been more reliable and that before 1950 very dry years were more common.

Ever since the awful famine of 1878 there have been many efforts to predict the monsoon. These have met with only limited success.

Reasonably convincing links have been established with effects as remote as sea-surface temperature over the Pacific and the winter snow cover of Central Asia, but these fall short of providing reliable forecasts.

Whatever the causes, India's crucial dependence on this single, well-defined but little understood seasonal movement of the weather, makes the monsoon possibly the most important challenge for weather forecasters.

W. J. Burroughs

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## Thistle Hotels

In the list of 80 salaries published in Monday's *Times*, the figure for a Thistle Hotels head chef should have read £13,000 to £22,000, depending on the size of the establishment.

## A fresh lease for the semi

The suburban semi-detached has always been inconveniently popular with people. Even now it possibly represents the way most Britons would like to live, and, when houses that cost £750 in 1932 sell for £175,000, its ultra-conservative values are beginning to be appreciated by professionals and conservationists, too.

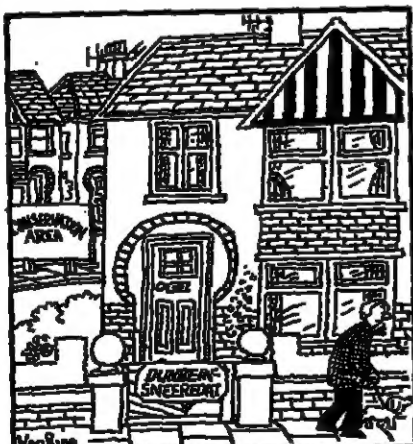
The first few select suburban estates have been declared official conservation areas, and an exhibition opening tomorrow in appropriately suburban Hendon celebrates the "little palaces" that sprang up around London in the 1920s and 1930s.

Abuse was heaped on the houses when they were built. Those who erected them were "speculative". Their architectural styles were "bogus". But for a proliferating, and no longer wealthy, middle class they represented escape from the drudgery of grimy, urban terraces.

The speculative builders took their lead from the Garden City Movement, and their opportunity from the State's abrupt decision in 1921 to stop financing local authorities' programmes to build "Homes Fit For Heroes". In 1922, 4,860 private houses were built in Greater London. By 1934 the rate of private building had climbed, erratically but spectacularly, to 72,756.

With mortgage repayments as low as nine shillings (45p) a week, it became possible in the 1930s to buy a house on as little as £200 a year, the salary of a junior clerical worker. Some speculative builders asked for only £5 down; one carried a wad of fivers to lend prospective customers the deposit.

Mostly the houses were built without architects or planners. Hence professional distaste for them. But the decorative features — tile-hung gables, half-timbering, pebbledash — were drawn from the English rustic vernacular



and used in a style derived directly from late Victorian and Edwardian revivalist architects. The ultimate expression of conservative romanticism was sham Tudor, an escapist fantasy made all the more desirable by economic depression.

The internal plan of the houses, too, was stubbornly conservative, essentially that of the 19th-century terraced house. The front parlour stayed because people wanted it. The rear extension, with its

connotation of urban scullery drudgery, went because it was unpopular. That left the houses with their biggest drawback from the modern occupier's point of view: small kitchens and bathrooms.

The suburbanites of the 1920s and 1930s did not share the modern fetish for light. They liked the dark, not only because light colours would show the dust of open fires. It was an age of varnish, pseudo-antique (rather than Art Deco) furniture and linoleum. A paint chart of the time is four-fifths dark colours, mostly browns and greens.

"In many ways the ordinary inter-war semi represented the last manifestations in mid-Victorian taste in decoration and household management," says Mark Turner, the keeper of the Silver Studio Collection at the Middlesex Polytechnic, who has brought together the exhibition.

But the number that are to be found in original condition is rapidly dwindling toward vanishing point, as, one after another, the suburbs' little palaces succumb to the modern generation of self-styled home-improvers, do-it-yourself enthusiasts, replacement window salesmen and vandalistic stone-chudlers.

Leaflets produced to accompany the exhibition urge suburban owners not to knock dining-rooms and sitting-rooms together, ruining the proportions of both, or to take down chimneys (natural ventilation) and take out fireplaces (the room's focal point). These period features, too, like Georgian fireplaces and window shutters, will command their premium in time.

Little Palaces, Church Farm House Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, London NW4, Aug 22-Oct 4. Weekdays (except Tue) 10 am-1 pm, 2-5.30 pm; Tue 10 am-1 pm only; Sat 2-5.30 pm only. Admission free.

Robin Young

## British Telecom's latest catalogue is at the end of a phone.

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## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1345

- ACROSS
- 1 Price reduction (8)
  - 5 Happy (6)
  - 9 Radio telegraphy physicist (7)
  - 10 Harmonize (5)
  - 11 Trivial (5)
  - 12 Excuse (5)
  - 13 Let in (5)
  - 15 Wireless (5)
  - 16 Hindu class (5)
  - 18 Gibraltar (5)
  - 20 Jack (5)
  - 21 Wellbeing (7)
  - 23 Beak pace (4)
  - 24 Quarter note (8)

- DOWN
- 1 Yellow tropical shrub (6)
  - 2 Lofly (8)
  - 3 Duet (3)
  - 4 Informer (7-6)
  - 6 Stead (4)
  - 7 Subtract (6)
  - 9 Adjournment (8)
  - 11 Chile president (8)
  - 14 Hotchpotch (8)
  - 15 Din (6)
  - 17 Scope (6)
  - 19 Elephant's ear plant (4)
  - 22 Destiny (3)

## SOLUTION TO NO 1344

- ACROSS: 1 Project, 5 Sampson, 8 Haw, 9 Bubble, 10 Octave, 11 Eyot, 12 Medicine, 14 John Flamsteed, 17 Silencer, 19 Wise, 21 Hippie, 23 Cullis, 24 Arc, 25 Defect, 26 Ossify.
- DOWN: 1 Quarry, 3 Substance, 4 Thermal, 5 Sword, 6 Met, 7 Ad-verb, 13 Cotswolds, 15 Oxidize, 16 Morocco, 18 Cheat, 20 Stuff, 22 Pie.

## Win with ideas

Each autumn Techmart — the Technology Transfer Exhibition, held at the National Exhibition Centre — provides a forum for Britain's brightest technological minds. This year, for the first time, the innovators of tomorrow will be joined by the Innovator of the Year, in a competition sponsored by *The Times* and Barclays Bank.

The winner will receive £10,000, as well as £1,000-worth of free stand space at Techmart. The runner up will also receive £1,000 worth of stand space.

Researchers, engineers or technicians from academic, government or commercial laboratories who have — or are about to — set up a new technological "spin out" company to exploit either their expertise or their research, are eligible to enter for *The Times*

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A business plan no more than 20 pages long, with appendices if necessary, showing the balance between technical, marketing and financial skills, should reach David Killick, High Technology Team, Barclays Bank plc, 34 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH, by August 31.

Entrants, who need to have been established no longer than three years, should also say how they intend to spend the prize money.

The 1987 Techmart exhibition will take place from October 13-15. The opening address — "Technology, the key to the future" — will be given by Sir Ian MacGregor, former chairman of British Coal and the British Steel Corporation.

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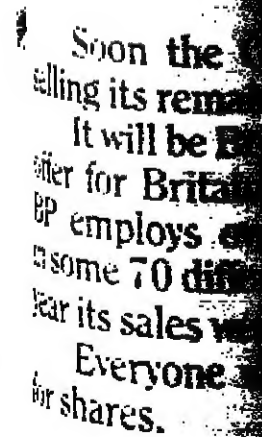
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## THE TIMES DIARY

### One under the eight

Peter Bottomley, the junior Transport Minister with the task of persuading us not to drink and drive, is as fond of the *taste* of booze as I am. At a meeting yesterday with the advertising agency Waldron, Allen, Henry & Thompson, which handles the drink-drive campaign, no fewer than eight different brands of wine and beer were laid out for the minister and ad men to sample — all of them. I should add, non-alcoholic. Bottomley tells me the purpose of the "party" was to work out how best his department can persuade newspapers and broadcasters to carry the anti-drink-drive message, a cheaper and more effective alternative, he believes, than paid-for advertising. "We're setting up the Waugh award," he jests, "for those papers which start the most debate about drinking and driving." Since he's naming it after Auberon Waugh, champion of the individual, wine writer and constant critic of government policy on drink driving, it is ironic that the prize is a alcohol-free bottle of champagne.

### Reform club

As SDP and Liberal activists wait with bated breath for the outcome of next week's SDP conference discussions on merger, some have already set their minds on what to call a joint party. Letters have, I am told, been flooding in to David Steel with suggested names. Top of the list is the nostalgic Reform Party, with the Democratic Party and the Alliance close behind. But despite its popularity a reassertion of reformist traditions in the new party's name seems unlikely. "I think the objection would be that it sounds rather staid," commented one Liberal.

● The transcript of Oliver North's testimony to the Iran-Contra hearings, published as a book called *Taking the Stand*, sold like hot cakes for a few days when it appeared in America last month. But one bookshop browser noticed last week it has already been relegated to the bottom shelves.

### The two Lucys

The once-cordial relationship between the two Davids may have been further distanced by the black-haired Labrador puppy which Steel was given in Bodmin during the election campaign. The puppy, whose name was to be decided by competition, was not entirely welcome at Steel's Etrick Bridge home as the family already has an elderly Labrador named Jill who did not take to the new arrival. David and Debbie Owen then said that if the dog failed to settle they would take her on. Since then she has been named Lucy. This would make adoption awkward because that's the name of the Owens' youngest child.

BARRY FANTONI



### Spy network

One branch of the National Council for Civil Liberties may be late in jumping on the *Spycatcher* bandwagon with its public reading of the book tonight, but scores by adding spice to the controversy. One of the stars on the bill in Hereford is former diplomat Ronald Higgins, private secretary to Edward Heath when he was Lord Privy Seal. Higgins maintains that at least Parliament should look into the allegations. My question is, having read the book, how will they keep the audience awake?

### Lacey's lead

Terry Waite will almost certainly be unaware of his friend Graham Ferguson Lacey's attempt at the weekend to persuade Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to join the search for the missing envoy. Ignorance may also be bliss, as Ferguson Lacey's "private initiative" is the latest turn in the erratic career of the one-time paint salesman from Solihull who, less than a decade ago, was a born-again whizz-kid financial wheeler-dealer. Lacey, now a southern baptist minister, abandoned business for evangelism after a series of unsuccessful grandiose take-over schemes. He briefly resurfaced three years ago when he tried to return to the British business scene. Once described by Tiny Rowland as Lomito as a "financial pygmy", he said yesterday from the St James Club in London that his attempts to get Waite's release had been going on in secret for three months.

PHS

# A woman for the presidency?

by Norman Podhoretz

Washington  
Could a woman be elected president of the United States in 1988? The answer is yes, but not if she is running as a woman.

That rules out Patricia Schroeder of Colorado, who is now thinking of going for the Democratic nomination. Like Geraldine Ferraro before her, Mrs Schroeder's only claim to consideration is that she is female. When asked why she is running as a woman, Mrs Schroeder quips: "Do I have an option?" It is a good-natured and even clever response, but it misses the point. Ask Walter Mondale, who was so brutally punished by the electorate in 1984 for (among other things) selecting Mrs Ferraro as his running mate entirely on the basis of her sex.

But there is a woman who would have a very good chance of winning the presidency. Her name is Jeane Kirkpatrick, and the reason her chances would be so good is because she would not be running as a woman.

Of course Mrs Kirkpatrick would not be running as a Democrat either. Like many others who have been driven out of the Democratic Party by its drift to the left, she is now a Republican. Yet even before switching parties in 1985 she had, as Ronald Reagan's Ambassador to the UN, already become enormously popular.

with the conservative activists who are as important in the Republican presidential primaries as the leftists are in choosing the Democratic nominee.

Nor has her popularity faded in the two years since she left office. As a speaker, she has drawn huge and responsive crowds throughout the country. This is not only evidence of Mrs Kirkpatrick's appeal to the conservative activists, but of their lack of enthusiasm for the other candidates.

Of the seven currently seeking the Republican nomination, three (Jack Kemp, Paul Laxalt, and Pat Robertson) would seem to be naturalists as far as the conservatives are concerned. But none has yet succeeded in locking up conservative support; and nor have the two front runners, George Bush and Robert Dole, for all their ardent wooing.

But will Mrs Kirkpatrick run? That depends largely on Kemp. After a slow start, he has been gathering strength in recent months. If in the next few weeks he should take off, Mrs Kirkpatrick would almost certainly stay out. But if Kemp should remain around the 10 per cent level in the polls, the odds are that by early October she will stake her

claim to the conservative constituency. And having set the conservatives on fire at the 1984 Republican convention with her famous speech attacking the "San Francisco Democrats" who "blame America first", she could set them on fire again in 1988.

Thus launched, and probably skipping over the ridiculous Iowa caucuses, Mrs Kirkpatrick would then have an excellent shot at first or at least second place in the New Hampshire primary. In a field of eight, such a showing would need only about 20 per cent of the vote, and with the passionate backing of the conservative activists she could hardly get less.

This would place her for an even better showing two weeks later in the primaries being held on "super-Tuesday". With so many southern states holding primaries then, Mrs Kirkpatrick, as the favourite of the conservatives (and with family roots in Texas and Oklahoma) could easily win, and perhaps even with the nomination virtually sewn up.

But even if she did become the Republican candidate, could she go on to win the general election? Against any of the "seven dwarfs" now running for the Democratic nomination, why not? Admittedly

Mrs Kirkpatrick is untested as a vote-getter. Her demonstrated ability to make crowds cheer may or may not bring her votes. But this is something that only her candidacy can settle.

Which brings us back to the woman question. According to the latest poll, among the voters least willing to entertain the idea of a woman president are those very southern conservatives on whom Mrs Kirkpatrick's campaign for the nomination would most heavily depend. As for the general election, the same poll reports that, in hypothetical comparisons, "male Democrats defeat female Republicans by 15 points".

These are serious problems. Yet in the primaries, the concrete appeal of Mrs Kirkpatrick's politics to conservative voters, combined with her refusal to run as a woman, could neutralize their doubts. Then, in the general election, again because she neither asks for nor receives special treatment as a woman, she would no more be a "female Republican" than Margaret Thatcher is a "female Tory".

That is the main point about her in this context, and it is the main reason she could well become the first woman president of the United States.

The author is Editor of Commentary.

## Richard Thomson on a crisis that has brought new urgency to the search by international bankers for a better way of funding Third World debt

# The banks go begging



"Countries never go bust" was the famous dictum of Mr Walter Wriston, who led the American Bank, Citicorp, into heavy Third World lending in the 1970s. It now seems that even if they don't go bust, borrowers may still refuse to repay their debts.

It has taken the world's bankers five years of double talk and procrastination to admit that they will probably not recover the \$1,000 billion they have lent to developing countries. That admission at least offers the chance of finding a lasting solution to the debt problem, instead of endlessly sweeping it under the carpet.

The determination of bankers to do this will be tested next month, when the world's leading financial experts gather in Washington for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund. Debt is a contentious topic every year, but this time it has a special urgency.

Earlier this year Brazil, the developing world's largest borrower, announced that it was halting indefinitely the repayments of capital and interest on some \$60 billion of commercial bank loans. With more than \$110 billion of debt outstanding, Brazil is in a position to throw its weight around.

No developing country had tried a partial default on this scale before and the effect was electric. Within a few weeks, Citicorp — the biggest lender to Latin America — had raised its cover against bad debts by \$2.5 billion. Following its lead, the big British banks have set aside more than £3 billion against problem loans, resulting in the poorest profit figures many of them have ever seen.

Lloyds Bank, which topped the league with £1 billion in special bad debt provisions, and Barclays Bank both reported losses for the first time in their history. Midland Bank would have made a loss if it had not used an accounting sleight-of-hand to avoid one. Even National Westminster, with the smallest exposure to debtor countries, had its profits slashed to half the previous year's level.

The provisions were so massive that they opened up a big gap between the banks. Barclays and NatWest, whose Third World loans — and consequently their provisions — were relatively small, were already the two largest banks. But they suddenly found themselves in a different league from Lloyds and Midland, whose capital was hit by these enormous debt provisions. To cope with the impact, Midland is being forced to sell off two subsidiaries and raise more money on the stock market.

The banks claim that the increased bad debt cover shows they have developed a new realism about their loans. The British banks have been as guilty as any of assuming there was no real problem, despite the evidence that developing countries were in trou-

ble. They refused to make large provisions against bad debts and pretended that everything would be repaid in the end.

But as the debt problem grew worse during the 1980s the banks' other businesses boomed. Domestic banking particularly has taken off: over the past three years annual profits from the British operations of the big four have regularly topped 30 per cent. In effect, the British public is paying to shore up the banks' bad lending to the Third World.

And the British public will go on paying, because although the banks have now made provisions against 30 per cent of their potential bad debts there is no guarantee that they will not have to go higher. Eventually, the whole of some loans will have to be written off, while others will remain on the books at only a fraction of their original value.

That is one reason why Brazil is so important. If a plausible method of handling its debt problems is not found this time, there are certain to be further partial defaults by borrowers, leading to still higher bad debt provisions by banks.

The IMF meeting is the most

promising forum for reaching a broad agreement on how to end Brazil's suspension of debt repayments. The negotiations, involving the Brazilian government, the commercial bankers and the multilateral financial organizations (principally the IMF and the World Bank) are certain to be complex and prolonged.

### The borrowers

Outstanding international loans of largest Third World borrowers at end of 1986

Brazil	\$110bn
Mexico	\$102bn
Argentina	\$50bn
Indonesia	\$37bn
Venezuela	\$35bn
Philippines	\$28bn

### The lenders

British bank special provisions made this year and outstanding problem loans

	Provisions	Loans
Barclays	\$570m	\$3.1bn
Lloyds	\$1.0bn	\$4.3bn
Midland	\$916m	\$4.3bn
NatWest	\$495m	\$3bn
Stan Chartered	\$400m	\$1.7bn

## Laws that protect the war-crime suspect

The Soviet Union has formally requested Britain to extradite Antanas Gecas, a Lithuanian living in Edinburgh who they claim is guilty of war crimes. He is one of 17 suspected genocidists living in Britain on a list handed to the government by the Wiesenthal Institute last year. What are the chances of bringing any of them before a court?

The all-party parliamentary war crimes group chaired by Merlyn Rees, in consultation with the governments of Canada, the US and Australia, has considered three legal possibilities.

First, can they be brought to trial in Britain for genocide or murder committed in Estonia in 1941-42? German war criminals were tried in occupied Germany, but never here. Genocide was declared to be a crime in peace or in war by the 1948 United Nations convention, but British courts have no jurisdiction for crimes committed in the last war. The necessary legislation has

never been passed — although it does exist in Canada — nor does it seem likely that it will be.

As to the common crime of murder, British courts have no jurisdiction over murder committed abroad unless by persons who were British subjects at the time. This is not the case with the suspects named by the Wiesenthal Institute.

The second alternative is extradition, the handing over of a wanted criminal or suspect to a foreign country presenting *prima facie* evidence to a court here. The country must have an extradition treaty with us covering the crimes and meeting any special conditions of delivery. No such treaty has been concluded with the Soviet Union.

Even if we did conclude an extradition treaty with the Soviets, it would still be possible for extradition orders to be refused if the Home Secretary considered that it would be "unjust or oppressive". This might well be

the case where the Soviet Union is concerned, in view of its poor record on human rights.

Britain does have an extradition treaty with Israel — the only other country likely to demand the surrender of the 17 suspects — but it does not extend to demands for crimes committed outside the territorial limits of Israel.

The third possibility is deportation. No British citizen can be deported, so it would be necessary to revoke any naturalization, a rare and strictly limited procedure. Probably the only grounds for this would be if the Home Secretary was satisfied the British citizenship was obtained by fraud, false representation or concealment of any detail.

Even if these requirements are met, and the individual, as a stateless person, is liable to be deported, the Home Secretary has to consider the deportation to be conducive to the public good. Further, deportation must not be so carried out as to amount to a

disguised form of extradition, for example by direction being given to the carrier to convey the person to the state which has been denied extradition.

It thus does not seem likely that anything can be done to bring the suspects to justice, even assuming *prima facie* evidence of their crimes is available, unless legislation is introduced enabling them to be tried in this country or extradited.

The discretions conferred upon the Home Secretary in all cases of deprivation of naturalization and deportation are likely to prove formidable obstacles to securing the return of suspects to the scene of their crimes. The necessary legislation would probably also be opposed by both Parliament and the British people.

### Gerald Draper

The author, professor emeritus (law) at Sussex University, was a British war crimes prosecutor in Germany 1945-49.

Digby Anderson

# Blurred truths of black crime

A report last week suggested that soon a majority of imprisoned criminals will be black. The week before, a police superintendent in charge of the Chapeltown area of Leeds was alleged to have claimed that West Indians are mainly responsible for drugs, prostitution and vice and that his "15,000 West Indians are very difficult to police". The local Mandela Centre, a "community group", is upset by these remarks and considering reporting him to the Police Complaints Authority.

The rights and wrongs of the particular case are not my concern, but I should add that the Mandela Centre points out that it was not complaining itself but merely acting as a channel for a possible complaint from "the community", and that, when pressed as to why these remarks merited a complaint, explained they were racist and cast a slur on the "whole community".

Whatever the facts of the Leeds case, it is a fact that some people do believe West Indians responsible for disproportionate amounts of crime. So the obvious question, before any rhetoric about racism, is: are they? The Home Office is most unhelpful. It claims that no statistics on the ethnic composition of crime are collected. This is true but misleading. In fact, the Home Office itself has published research studies on race and crime (e.g. No 58) and so have university researchers. Even more important, the police classify criminals in categories reflecting race. The Metropolitan Police only recently stopped publishing them in racial breakdowns after criticism. So, though the figures are not collected and published by the Home Office, they do exist.

Several criminologists, of different persuasions, have argued that the figures ought to be published. Some think they would show West Indians to be law-abiding and thus correct rumour and prejudice. Or they might show how simplistic the notion of high or low rates is by showing high participation in "street crimes" and low in "white-collar crimes". Others think the statistics would show significantly higher rates for some crimes but that this could be linked to urban deprivation or show special needs which might produce helpful social policies. Any residual, genuinely "ethnic" factor in crime could be largely explained by the alleged prejudice of the police, juries and judges. Yet others just believe the public has a right to know.

It is doubtful whether the statistics would solve anything. They would simply start an argument about how much black crime could be explained by deprivation, police prejudice and socio-economic factors. These "factors" are the real currency of the debate because, while appearing sociological, they can be used to redistribute blame. In the progressive view of the world, individuals are at the mercy of such factors. In the conservative view, individuals

remain responsible for adapting to hostile conditions and even working patiently to overcome the prejudices of others. These sort of arguments would be fuelled by the statistics.

Blame is never far below the surface in the academic debate, and explicit in the public one. One complication — the academics would rightly introduce is that most crime is intra-racial, not inter-racial. This observation neither affirms the figures nor explains the causes of crime. It is morally motivated, not so much pointing out who should be blamed but who has a right to blame. Bluntly, if anyone has a right to be indignant about black crime it is blacks; they are the victims of it.

This is crucial, for the genuine problem of who to blame for "black crime" is essentially about how criminal blacks relate to non-criminal blacks. In the extreme case, black victims. It is not so much whether some West Indian "elements" commit more rapes, car thefts, street attacks and drug crimes than their white or Asian counterparts, but whether they are typical of West Indians: not how much blame for the national crime rate can be legitimately attached to them, but to whom, precisely, it should be attached. There will always be arguments about the numbers, but there should be no argument about the identity of those blamed.

The remarks made by the Mandela Centre are instructive here. Whether they were right to complain about the numbers of crimes attributed to West Indians, they would certainly have been right to be concerned at any suggestion (if it was made) that crime was anywhere else than crime was the fault of West Indians in general. It is this notion that all West Indians share the characteristics of a criminal minority — whatever size that minority — which is racist.

Unfortunately, it is precisely the "thinking" of certain black activists which encourages this. They insist on the sameness, the blackness of all black people, the black identity, the black experience. They go on and on about something called the black "community", which presumably is supposed to have a single community of interests. It is lethal nonsense. It means classifying the many hard-working, law-abiding, decent West Indian families with layabouts, rapists and muggers as simply "black". It means, in the end, refusing all natural moral distinction and lumping guilty (black) rapists and innocent (black) victims together as black.

It will be difficult to undo the damage done to West Indians by this black racist claptrap. But the obvious start would be for genuine representatives of the law-abiding West Indian majority to call for tougher police action on the sentencing of black criminals. For it is this majority who both by actual injury and false association are the principal victims.

The author is Director of the Social Affairs Unit.

however . . . Howard Jacobson

# Beckoned by the old gods

The recent IBA report on television and the family means to cheer us with its findings. Programmes about Texas oil magnates and their lovely wives do not, after all, excite envy, undermine the home, or kill the art of conversation. Good to know; though since there is no special virtue in contentment, and the ability to converse has always been one of mankind's least perfected skills — witness the poor stab even professional conversers make at it on late night television itself — not all that good to know.

It's the news programmes, anyway, and not the soap operas, that do damage to the only part of man we need to care about: his capacity for individual reflection, for turning a deaf ear to the title-tattle of the universe. Once persuade a man that he is made the equal of his fellows by troubles in the Gulf or the yo-yoing of the currency and you have him in your pocket.

It is easier to ignore "news" when you're out of cities than when you're in them. You still have television, but your undifferentiated curiosity is not perpetually stimulated by billboards. You don't dash home to catch a bulletin. Down here on the bump of the big toe of Britain, for example, word of what's disrupting the breakfasts of diplomats arrives late or not at all. I haven't discussed the Gulf with anyone all summer. I don't know what my money's worth. Instead, for weeks now, local consciences have been exercised by three nice socio-ethical conundrums not referred to on television, to wit:

1. Whether the folk and ceilidh festival due to be held soon in the pub at the top of the hill is going to prove disastrous to the peace and well-being of the village, given the notorious predisposition of thugs and hooligans to gather wherever there is morris dancing.

2. Whether the hefty, 63-year-old gentleman who likes wearing pinstriped shirts and high-heeled patent shoes and is known to carry washing-up gloves and an apron in his handbag, is within his rights to apply for membership of the Women's Institute, and whether there is anything in the latter's constitution to hinder his election.

"The WI is an organization for women and girls," a spokesman of the appropriate sex has already confided to reporters, "and therefore we would have to be assured the individual applying is a woman in every way."

3. Whether fishermen who supplement their incomes taking sea-sick holidaymakers out on their boats to squinty at seals and puffins should, out of the blue so to speak, be required to pass a special Department of Transport marine driving test (one three-point turn in mid-Atlantic; one emergency stop in the path of a Liberator tanker; two examples of auk and common guillemot evasion), and whether there is a mole among these seamen — an other, as he might be called — informing on his unlicensed colleagues out of motives too long for long-time coastal dwellers even to imagine.

It will be evident at once that these are only superficially parochial issues. Dionysus, the god of wine, effeminacy and riot, and Apollo, the god of all the ordered opposites — these are the real combatants between whom, in each instance, we know we have to choose. *Times* readers in urban areas might be more familiar with the choice between the individual and society, or freedom and constraint; but down here we still stick with the old divinities.

Or rather, they still do. As for me, I'll be gone by the time the folk festival doesn't result in riot and the WI doesn't take the opportunity to extend its definition of a woman. I won't be here to see the pleasure boats chugging out of the harbour with L-plates taggish when the informer is found imprisoned in a lobster pot. I'll be by then, back bobbing in the swell of bookish London, comparing the youthful zest of '86, and wondering why yet another volume of non-fiction has won a prize for novels.

Big, newsy issues. Of intense concern to me. And good for the art of conversation. Of scant interest to the gods, however. Howard Jacobson's new book, *In The Land of Oz*, will be published next month.





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## RESTRICTED ACCESS

For many years the United States has insisted that a lasting understanding with the Soviet Union to rid the world of nuclear weapons would be possible only if each side were allowed to arrive uninvited at the other's door. Then each could go inside to see if any agreement was being observed — "on-site verification", as the jargon has it, or "challenge inspections".

Rightly so. The Soviet Union has an exceptional record of violating agreements, treaties, safe conducts and solemn undertakings — on nuclear weapons, as on many other things. As long ago as 1961, it broke the first moratorium on nuclear tests. More recently, it was the first to break the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 by building, at Krasnoyarsk in the heart of the Soviet Union, an installation which at best was of a kind which the treaty only allowed on the periphery of the country and which at worst was a breach of the treaty's prohibition on "battle-management stations".

For years too, the Soviet Union has sought to limit or avoid such unexpected and troublesome visitors from the United States or elsewhere. Rightly so, from the Soviet Union's point of view. A closed political system cannot allow foreigners to wander anywhere at will.

So the West could demand unlimited access to the Soviet Union, confident in the knowledge that it would not be granted. For, if it were, the Soviet inspectors would demand similar rights around the West. And the West's secrets about weapons are superior to the Soviet Union's because, on the whole, the weapons are.

Also, it would be extremely difficult to limit the Soviet Union's wanderings to venues which are obviously military. America's rival superpower would probably have to be given the right to wander into buildings which it could depict as being the scene of military activity, but which were not. This would afford many an opportunity for pillaging industrial secrets from relatively peaceable factories.

This debate, if such it can be called, is as old as the first nuclear disarmament talks between the United States and Soviet Union. It goes back to the late 1950s and 1960s. Lately, it has taken the form of a discussion about how much inspection of itself the Soviet Union is prepared to allow in connection with the removal by both sides of medium range nuclear missiles in Europe — the "zero-zero" option.

The Soviet Union was being as inhospitable as ever. But suddenly, on August 7, Mr Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister,

announced that his country would open all its territory to inspection in return for access to United States military facilities in Europe, but also to suspected chemical weapons plants and storage sites. There would have been potentially endless disputes about what constituted a possible chemical weapons site.

The United States and at least some of its European allies, or some of the more hard-headed elements among those allies, were suitably horrified. By yesterday it looked on the authority of *The Washington Post* as if President Reagan had reversed the policy almost of a lifetime, and had been browbeaten into proposing distinct limitations on the right of Soviet and American experts to inspect each other, as the Soviet Union had preferred all along.

Since there was always an element of playing-acting in the position of both sides on the subject, yesterday's development could also be interpreted as a welcome return to realism by both prior to their getting on with the serious negotiations about medium range missiles in Europe. It may further be true that the acceptance by the Soviet Union of a full zero-zero option, instead of the partial agreement on offer hitherto, required a lower level of verification.

But it is more than that. The United States knew full well that the Soviet Union would retreat from Mr Shevardnadze's original generosity once the details came to be negotiated. What, for example, would be meant by access to "all" Soviet territory? The Soviet Union does not allow that to tourists, journalists, and indeed its own citizens, let alone to American nuclear experts.

Far better, from the point of view of enthusiasts for the zero-zero option, to grant the Soviet Union what it really wants and understands best — limited access to knowledge. But by satisfying the Soviet Union's fears — as well those of his own side — Mr Reagan is in danger of showing himself desperate for an arms agreement with Mr Gorbachev.

No verification process can be carried out through satellites alone. Satellites cannot peer through roofs or count hidden warheads. Mr Reagan's desire to end his presidency as a peacemaker should be respected. But by the time the treaty comes into its own, he will be chopping wood and riding horses on his Californian ranch. His successor, and Europe, may be living under a treaty which cannot be verified.

## PAUSE FOR LAW

Mr Hurd has returned from his holiday and set up a committee to review the law on the purchase and ownership of guns. Meanwhile semi-automatic weapons of the type which Michael Ryan used at Hungerford continue to be sold. With a ban in prospect, and with demand possibly boosted by publicity, there is the risk that in the short term sales might increase.

Is, therefore, such a review sufficient? It will necessarily take some time to complete. He has imposed no deadline on his officials. From the review will come a report which will have to be read, digested, consulted upon, shown to interested parties (including lobbyists interested in preventing change in the law). All that must happen before legislation results.

The Home Office counsels caution. It warns against rushing into decisions. This is the way the civil service works, and nowhere more powerfully than at Queen Anne's Gate.

Mr Hurd must ask himself whether, as a politician, he has done enough to reassure a worried public. Setting up a committee of civil servants to rummage through the law books may not look sufficiently robust. He might, perhaps, have emerged more energetically from that meeting on Monday with officials and the chief inspector of constabulary. It is tempting to argue that, for the sake of calming public anxiety, Mr Hurd should have presented the public with a recipe for instant action: an immediate ban, for example, on the

sale of the type of weapon used to such deadly effect in Berkshire last week.

That, however, would require legislation in the form of an amendment to the 1968 Firearms Act. The Act itemizes those weapons — machine guns principally, but also guns discharging gas cartridges and the like — which the public are prohibited from owning unless the Home Secretary or the Scottish Secretary gives specific permission. The list should surely include Kalashnikov rifles and their ilk; but Mr Hurd is right to want an exhaustive review of the statute law before he brings a new bill forward.

Until that time, the law provides chief constables with much discretion in issuing firearms certificates. It was open to Mr Hurd — and still is — to draft an immediate circular reminding them of the high standards they ought to require when they assess the "good character" of applicants. Chief constables can, in principle, add all sorts of conditions to the certificates they issue.

It would be possible for the police to make those conditions so stringent that the purchase of semi-automatic weapons was effectively prevented. The judgements of the police are, after all, subject to appeal and to review by the courts. It is to be hoped that the police will be issuing few certificates for such weapons in the next few months. By that time Mr Hurd's review ought to have issued into new law.

## BACK TO THE ARMADA?

King Juan Carlos of Spain, hitherto generally regarded as a good friend of this country, has suddenly chosen to present himself in the less pleasing role of a "candid friend". If newspaper reports are accurate, he has said that the thousands of British tourists who annually visit his domain in Majorca are not welcome because they are of poor quality. Infuriated Britons have, possibly with the aid of a bad conscience, chosen to interpret this as meaning that the King thinks us to be a nation of yobboes the presence of whose members on his soil is a source of nuisance and nausea to his own faithful and sober subjects. The response of the popular press in Britain has been strong.

Now, most of the evidence for the King's strictures is of a kind generally described with high-minded contempt as "anecdotal". Are British tourists conspicuously less well behaved than tourists from other lands? Alas! Common observation (the source of most opinions about everything) makes it impossible to deny that terrible charge with unblinking confidence.

If the charge is true, what explains this phenomenon? Do the British go mad when abroad in response to the relief felt at escaping from oppressive licensing laws at home (Mr Hurd is attending to that matter)? Are their excesses the result of unemployment which, according to other anecdotal evidence, is no bar to foreign travel? Or are they the consequence of the ruthless competitive culture introduced by Mrs Thatcher, or the widespread disappearance of religious worship from state schools, or of the films shown on British television? On these crucial issues, which merit years of expensive research, this newspaper will for the present maintain a devout agnosticism.

It is more useful to speculate on the probable consequences of King Carlos's words. These

will surely be negligible. The royal strictures, unhappily, are hardly likely to bring about any rapid improvement in the behaviour of young Britons who go on package tours to Spain. It also seems hardly likely (no doubt much to the relief of those responsible for the health of the Spanish economy) that they will have the effect of encouraging them to stay at home or go elsewhere.

For years, the travelling British public has been diligently warned by the press of the diverse hazards which attend visits to that country. Earlier this year, such visitors were warned of the danger of contracting a number of foul diseases from chimpanzees employed by Spanish photographers on Spanish beaches. There is the perennial danger of being blown up by ETA bombs on those same beaches. Over the years, there have been endless stories of British tourists being mugged by young Spaniards. It is even doubtful whether future visitors will be deterred by the hours of frustration lately inflicted on them at airports by the strike of Spanish air traffic controllers.

A few royal insults are unlikely to prevail where so much else has failed. Admittedly, a distinguished contemporary has uttered a robust call to patriotism. "We hope", *The Sun* writes, "that in future British tourists will go anywhere in the world but Spain. We hope that they will tell the high and mighty Juan Carlos just what he can do with his sunshine, his beaches, his sour wine and his mouldy paelia".

Past experience suggests, however, that *The Sun's* exhortation will not be heeded. The most that can be claimed for King Carlos's words is that they have provided a striking illustration of one of the most persistent of idealistic fallacies — the view that foreign travel promotes international amity. As a xenophobic sailor once remarked, "I never disliked a Chinaman until I met one".

## False economy on M40 motorway?

From Sir Robert Booth

Sir, There can surely be nothing more ludicrous than the attempt by the Under Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Bottomley, to refute criticism of his decision that 12 miles of the final 110 miles of the M40 motorway should be only two instead of three lanes in each direction (report, August 20).

He is quoted as saying that his department does not want to cover the whole countryside with concrete and tarmac. How does he reconcile this with his responsibility to create over £1 billion of new motorways and trunk roads annually, to provide Britain, however belatedly, with an adequate and efficient road system?

In any case, the land-take for the 12 miles near Banbury is the same, whether the extra carriageway is built now or later. Nor can the extra cost of £4 million be a serious argument.

His case seems to be based on his confidence in his department's latest estimate that the maximum traffic flow will only be 38,000 vehicles a day and this will be within the design capacity of 50,000 vehicles a day. Surely, as the saying goes, he cannot be serious in that belief, when in only

a few months since completion figures now show that flows on one section of the M25 are 142,000 vehicles a day, against design forecasts of 80,000 vehicles a day.

A similar catastrophe will certainly arise if his traffic-flow figures for his proposed 12 miles of dual carriageway on the M40 are believed. Once again, Murphy's Law will demonstrate that immediately a new motorway is opened traffic volumes exceed design forecasts, with large numbers of vehicles taking to the new route to avoid the already congested M1.

Then, once again, we shall be forced into the waste of unnecessary millions and inordinate delays for years for widening to three lanes which should have been built in the first place, as witness the expensive and frustrating holdups on the M5, still not completely upgraded after years of roadworks and contra-flows.

The industrial needs of the Midlands demand that the under Secretary think again. Yours sincerely, ROBERT BOOTH, White House, 7 Sandal Rise, Solihull, West Midlands, August 24.

## Hungerford killings

From the Director General of the Economic League

Sir, An article in a recent issue of an extreme right-wing magazine began with a sentence: "Every National Socialist in the course of political development reaches a stage when the acquisition of firearms is seriously considered".

It pointed out that weapons can be obtained illegally, either through the black market or through the police, but that the risks, not least of political embarrassment, are considerable if party members are caught with such weapons. Finally, it suggested that it is not difficult to convert legally held airguns into firearms and that there are in any case many equally effective substitutes for firearms.

The implications of this advice to anyone contemplating illegal use of firearms, whether for political or for any other purpose, is clearly that the existing legal framework already places very heavy restrictions on their legal possession and use and that the various illegal means of possession are the safer option. It follows from this that further tightening the laws on the legal market will do little to get to the root of the current problem.

There has been a huge increase

in recent years in the publication of anarchist and other extremist publications all advocating the use of arson, sabotage and straight violence and glorifying the use of weapons of all kinds. So long as this clear incitement is allowed to continue tinkering with the firearms regulations will have little effect.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL NOAR, Director General, The Economic League, 7 Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, EC4A, August 21.

From the Headmaster of Hurstpierpoint College

Sir, In countless English towns and villages the peace of last Wednesday's sunny afternoon was unbroken. No killer walked their streets.

Only in shops in almost all these towns and villages there were for hire video films featuring fear, pain, hatred, horror and violent death.

If we give encouragement to the fantasy why should we be surprised at the reality? Yours faithfully, SIMON WATSON, Headmaster, Hurstpierpoint College, Hassocks, West Sussex, August 22.

## Right to silence

From Professor Michael Zander

Sir, Contrary to Frances Gibbs's assertion (article, August 24), I do not believe that the right of silence is used mainly by the hard core of experienced criminals. This is what the police believe, but there has never been any empirical evidence to support the belief. My own study of cases tried at the Old Bailey, for instance, showed that 12 defendants out of 282 were silent. Of these, four were motorists and the rest were accused of a variety of offences, some serious, others less so.

The fact is that a very small number of suspects are silent in the police station, some of whom no doubt are real villains but many of whom are not. Moreover, many of these are ultimately convicted. In my own sample only three of the 12 who were silent were acquitted. Abolition of the right of silence would make little difference to this picture.

But the main objection to the Home Secretary's notion of abolishing the right of silence is not that it would be ineffective so much as that it would be doubly wrong in principle.

First, it would undermine the fundamental common-law principle that an accused person

should not be put under official pressure to participate in the process leading to his own conviction. This is not just a sentimental hangover from former times; it represents part of the bedrock of the system.

Second, we have just had nearly 10 years of debate on the proper balance between police and suspect, starting with the appointment of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure in 1978 and culminating with Royal Assent for the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in 1984.

The royal commission concluded that the right of silence should stay and this was accepted by Mrs Thatcher's government and Mr Hurd's two immediate predecessors as an integral part of the balance between citizen and the police.

For Mr Hurd now to propose that this carefully constructed balance be demolished on so fundamental a point is to make a mockery of the entire process set in train when the royal commission was appointed. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL ZANDER, The London School of Economics and Political Science, Law Department, Houghton Street, WC2, August 24.

## Reducing cancer risk

From Dr D. F. Burkitt, FRS

Sir, The news of discoveries that may lead to early diagnosis and better treatment of bowel cancer (August 13) is welcome. The statement that "the ultimate aim would be a drug to cure bowel cancer" must, however, be challenged. Reduction in the frequency of this disease must surely be the ultimate aim and very few diseases of any kind have ever been reduced in frequency as a result of improved treatment.

Bowel cancer is one of the diseases that is particularly characteristic of modern Western culture. The incidence rates are lowest in less economically developed populations and highest in affluent and industrialised societies. It is today, but not formerly, almost as common in black as in

white Americans, yet it is over 10 times as common in the former as it is in Africans.

It is generally accepted that diet is the major environmental factor determining its frequency, and the currently most acceptable concept is that excess fat plays a causative and adequate fibre a protective role.

It would never be said that the ultimate aim with respect to lung cancer was to improve treatment. It is to lessen the frequency of the disease by reducing the identified cause, cigarette smoking. Likewise with bowel cancer the ultimate aim must be to identify causative and protective factors and reduce the former while enhancing the latter.

Yours faithfully, DENIS BURKITT, Hartnell Cottage, Wells Road, Bisleigh, Gloucestershire.

## 'Spycatcher' ruling

From Mr Robin Bruce Lockhart

Sir, Three months before Viking/Penguin published *Spycatcher* they published a new book of mine (*Reilly: The First Man*). The original draft of my book contained a number of references to Peter Wright and allegations he made to me — not, incidentally, mentioned in his own book — but, in keeping with the spirit of the British law, I requested Viking/Penguin to delete all references to Peter Wright, doubtless losing out on sales.

I cannot help but feel that in the case of *Spycatcher* the British press is infinitely more concerned with newspaper sales than matters

of genuine public interest, of which I would gauge only some 10 to 15 per cent of the book might be so termed.

The Press Council took the initiative some time ago to bring to an end the disreputable practice of newspapers paying well-known criminals for their memoirs. How much more important must it be for the council to take steps to prevent the press from handing out money for the revelations of the secrets of their trade to former intelligence officers.

Yours faithfully, ROBIN BRUCE LOCKHART, Quand Mémé, 30 rue Romain Rolland, 66190 Collioure, Pyrénées Orientales, France.

## Putting the case for Zimbabwe

From Mr J. G. Cluff

Sir, Your leading article on Zimbabwe (August 24) was, to say the least, patronising and unfair. I have business interests there and concede that accordingly I am liable to be accused of special pleading. However, on account of those interests I have, over the last seven years, spent much time there and have met many of the government ministers, including Mr Mugabe.

One paragraph in particular I shall challenge to illustrate my concern. Your leader states in the penultimate paragraph: "One-party government is not the remedy for Zimbabwe's crippling foreign debt, its lack of foreign exchange, its growing unemployment and its negative growth rate of around 6 per cent."

What then is the remedy for these ills? The foreign debt is largely an inheritance from the mess created by Ian Smith's one-party white government and it should be understood by your readers that Zimbabwe has always honoured its foreign debt obligations, unlike many other nations, not all of them black.

The lack of foreign exchange is largely attributable not to any "maladministration" but rather to

two crippling years of drought and disastrously low tobacco prices. No doubt your leader writer believes that democracy will improve the weather.

The country's growing unemployment is indeed a problem — 50 per cent of the population is under 15 years of age — and that is largely because Mr Mugabe's government has honoured its pledge to its people by substantially improving the quality of medical care.

Your leader cannot find anything good to say about Zimbabwe. I can. In contrast to the deplorable example set by the previous white government Mr Mugabe has tackled a herculean task in, on the whole, a thoroughly decent and responsible manner. Certainly he needs foreign investment and a more tactful approach would help obtain it. However, I find your naive polemic, presented without any reference to Mr Mugabe's many achievements, profoundly depressing.

Yours faithfully, ALGY CLUFF, Clova, Lumsden, Aberdeenshire, August 25.

## ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 26 1885

The first Grasmere sports were held in 1882. One of its most popular features, the Cumberland and Westmorland-style wrestling is said to have been introduced by Norse settlers. The guides race was added to the programme in 1889.

## THE GRASMERE SPORTS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

... They [the spectators] have come in every species of conveyance, from the lordly drag to the lowly one-horse car, and from the char-a-banc to the bicycle, to see fine sport and fair play. As regards the latter there are cynics who say that even at Grasmere there are certain foregone conclusions, but if they are invisible to the unskilled eye, it is by no means so to the keen eye. It happens that the lot never brings two famous athletes together early in the day, but reserves those exciting exhibitions for its close. I know not, though I cannot help suspecting that Fortune must be assisted in the matter. When the proper time arrives, however, we are fully compensated for the delay.

To see these mountains of men, on legs like balustrades, place their heads confidentially over each other's shoulders, and then, moving gently their enormous arms like the antennae of some monstrous insect, and swaying them as they feel the leaves of some aquatic plant, as they feel for a hold around the other's waist, is a strange spectacle; but stranger still when all this tentative quietude is in one instant — when the hold is found — changed to the stretch and strain of combat, when the muscles stand out in knots, and every vein is swollen and every sinew is taut with tension, when they cling shoulder to shoulder and neck to neck, and at last touch ground, perhaps so nearly at the same instant and so "invariably convulsed" that it requires a practised eye indeed to award the palm...

But no amateur, nor any South countryman at all, however, could vie with the native athletes in what is called the "guides race". The name is a relic of the days when Lake tourists needed guides, whose services are no less seldom called in to requisition to show the shortest way up Helvellyn, or even Scawfell Pike, than to carry the provisions suitable for those expeditions. But, anyway, the candidates for the prize are the most speedy and agile of the dalesmen. Their object is to ascend Silver How — a fall of some 1,000 ft. high, the summit of which is about a mile from the ring — and return from it in the shortest possible time. Nine competitors, all attired in gay colours, start together at a speed which never seems to be relaxed from the moment they leave us till they come... bounding down the stone wall again, which is "home". From the nature of the place wherein the Grasmere sports are held — which is an amphitheatre — every movement of these men can be watched as they leap the brooks and climb the walls and scale the steep, till they round the red flag on the hilltop. Never before have I seen any human beings in motion, and not on horseback, who at so great a distance gave me such an impression of speed...

The winner takes fourteen minutes and a half to perform the whole feat, four minutes and a half of which he consumes in coming down, the quickest time in which the descent, I believe, has yet been made. What is most amazing is that these men come in quite fresh, and clamour up the last wall like panthers.

A sad story of recent date is told in connection with it. One of the competitors, the evening before the race, reconnoitring the course with care, found a short way down over a precipitous drop. Here he placed some bracken to fall soft upon, and, as the other competitors avoided the spot from its steepness, thus stole a march upon them and won the prize. The next day his device was discovered, whereupon he committed suicide...

## Piling it on

From Mrs Philip Rambaut

Sir, During the recent general election we were all subjected to the frequent use of the expression by every politician and political commentator on radio and television, "I/we/they have made it clear/very clear/perfectly clear/absolutely clear" or even, on special occasions, "abundantly clear".

Sometimes the matter in question was not a bit clear, but never mind... one just hoped that the election would soon be over and it would stop. No such luck! They are still at it.

Can any of your readers suggest some other phrase for these people to use to express their clarity of thought?

Yours in a muddle, CELIA RAMBAUT, Beck House, Bosley, Macclesfield, Cheshire.











## THE ARTS

## A kind of hell

While Michael Grade is this week removing lowbrow violence from our screens, *Brimstone and Treacle* (BBC1), Dennis Potter's controversial play banned by Alasdair Milne 11 years ago, was given the go-ahead.

"Can't you smell the sulphur?" cackled Martin (Michael Kitchen) as the devil at large on the streets of London in the guise of a student. Casually insinuating himself into the oppressive beige of suburbia where Mr and Mrs Bates (Denholm Elliott and Patricia Lawrence) were already sitting in some

## TELEVISION

kind of hell, shrouding their handicapped daughter behind closed curtains, Martin got up to all kinds of tricks including rape and satanic mumbo-jumbo.

Despite excellent performances *Brimstone and Treacle* left behind a taste in the mouth less like sulphur than rich and smelly putrefying fruit — the effect unpleasant but temporary. For all the notoriety Potter was cruising around the subject of evil without quite hitting the mark.

The facts that emerged during *The Price of Progress* (ITV) were distressing enough without Bob Geldof's now predictable presentation. With his Bad Aid project Geldof raised around \$1 million to be used in relief-funding in the Third World as compared to the \$30 billion apparently allocated and misallocated every year by multilateral banks, ostensibly for the same purpose.

Switching between the senior vice-president of the World Bank and a dam being built almost entirely by grateful Indian women, *The Price of Progress* cleverly explored the gap between corporate ideals and the resulting social and environmental damage.

Alexandra Shulman

## Devotion to hidden delights

## OPERA

John Higgins reports  
on welcome revivals  
at the August Rossini  
Festival in Pesaro

In August there are two Pesaros. On the strip of beach every square foot of sand is coveted; at dawn the striped umbrellas open like autumn mushrooms and at dusk they fold away. Pesaro is another Adriatic holiday resort, though maybe a bit sprucer than some which need not be mentioned.

The second Pesaro is a mere three streets inland but a world away. Maybe Stendhal was being a bit fulsome when he described its sensual charm in his *Vie de Rossini*, but traces of it remain still. It may be easy to walk past Rossini's natal house, which is closed for unscheduled repair and has only a grubby plaque over the front door, but in the green and leafy courtyard of the Conservatory the statue of the composer sits in an ample armchair contemplating something — perhaps tournois, perhaps a *Pêche de vieillesse*. The retiring room for the conductor by the side of the auditorium there (now hand-somely restored to seat 600 or so) must be among the grandest in Europe, right down to its paintings. The town theatre, now called inevitably the Teatro Rossini, is a few paces away.

These two buildings are the twin pivots of the August Rossini Festival, plus the Piazza del Popolo where there are live transmissions of selected opera performances to an audience paying about 5,000 lire (£2.50) a head. When all the fuss was made about the transmission of the Covent Garden *Bohème* a couple of months ago, Pesarians were heard to point out gently that they had been doing it for some years now.

The opera which almost forcibly put Pesaro on the international map was *Il viaggio a Reims*, which with a cast that glittered as much on stage as it did on paper went on



The fury of a lover spurned: Ermione (Montserrat Caballé) confronts Pyrrhus (Chris Merritt) and (above) Rossini at the time of Ermione

to La Scala and on to record, courtesy DG. But the city has stuck to its principle of staging unknown Rossini — or at least little-known, for the ranks of the unknown have thinned out markedly. This year's major work is *Ermione* at the Teatro Rossini, written for Naples in 1819 and not heard since, if the archives are to be trusted, except in a couple of concert performances.

The starting-point for Totola's libretto is Racine's *Andromaque*, which probably led some critics who had never heard of *Ermione* to call it Gluckian. It is not. Stendhal, in his chronological table of Rossini's operas, claims that "the characters are, to all intents and purposes, given nothing to portray except bad temper". Wrong again, unless two murders, one attempted on the life of Andromache's son Astyanax (still alive in Racine if not in Euripides) and the other highly effective on King Pyrrhus, go into the bad temper category. In *Ermione* emerges for the first time in Rossini's grandest style: it may not be another *Semiramide* but at times it comes within touching distance.

The first act is almost totally

successful with *Andromache*, in the somewhat slimmed-down shape of Marilyn Horne, lamenting the fall of Troy and trying to keep the attentions of Pyrrhus at a reasonable distance. Miss Horne, with her chest register as majestic as ever and the middle of the voice having more warmth than it has sometimes possessed, was a model of Trojan motherhood. Rossini's score demands three tenors, all capable of delivering a series of punishingly high notes, and Pesaro provided them.

Chris Merritt has improved beyond recognition from his *Donna del lago* at Covent Garden. His showpiece aria "Balen in man del figlio" might not be the best number in the score, but the duets with Ermione carried all the vocal guns to suggest that he will be the next Arnoldo when someone decides to do *Guglielmo Tell* — and there is much talk of it for La Scala. Rockwell Blake, almost a Rossini veteran now, dispatched the highest-lying role of all, Orestes, with a minimum of ugly notes. The trio was completed with considerable pace to fade. Robert de Simone's production was something in the style of the Paris *Semiramide*, with the courtiers in early 19th-century dress and the principals in flowing

robes, heavily embroidered for the women and encrusted with bangles, baubles and beads for the men. Enrico Job's circular view of the action framed in pitch-pine provided one ravishing Mediterranean landscape at the opening of Act II and a number of comfortable seats for the principals. A very grand evening.

On the opening night she dealt summarily with a small faction in the house who presumably would have preferred another soprano in the part and interrupted her Act II scene. At the curtain-calls Caballé requested a score from the pit and waved it in the faces of the offenders. Hell hath no composure like a Caballé scorned. The gesture inspired Gustav Kuhn to kneel at her feet — not a very normal act for a conductor, but quite Racinian.

Kuhn himself deserved a bit of hero-worship for an account of the score that realized many of its beauties and never allowed the pace to fade. Robert de Simone's production was something in the style of the Paris *Semiramide*, with the courtiers in early 19th-century dress and the principals in flowing

robes, heavily embroidered for the women and encrusted with bangles, baubles and beads for the men. Enrico Job's circular view of the action framed in pitch-pine provided one ravishing Mediterranean landscape at the opening of Act II and a number of comfortable seats for the principals. A very grand evening.

Next year promises Rossini's *Otello* (with June Anderson and Chris Merritt), which had quite a lot of popularity in the Sixties before the deriders got into their stride, and *La scala di seta*, which is much in the style of *L'occasione*. The final performances of *Ermione* are tonight, and on Saturday and Sunday.

## PROMENADE CONCERT

CLS/Hickox  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

One virtue of Michael Collins as a clarinetist is the pleasure he takes in works that might be thought unfairly neglected, like the Concerto by Gerald Finzi. Its limitation of texture to the contrast of solo instrument and strings ensures that the prevailing warmth and gentility should obscure neither the required skill of technique nor the range of feeling. Both qualities were forthcoming from the soloist at this performance, not least in a central solo movement of sustained gravity.

Richard Hickox shaped the City of London Sinfonia's contribution to correspond,

and should thereby have aroused his listeners' interest in a work that fitted gracefully into a programme with a strong folk interest, like the short, pungent Dance Preludes by Witold Lutoslawski, which again brought Mr Collins to the fore. The Polish composer was long a friend of Britten, whose own Suite on English Folk Tunes of 1975 brought him back shortly before his death to what he always acknowledged as a formative influence.

It was given a vigorous performance, fortunately with rather more charm than the conductor brought to either his brisk, not to say brusque, account of Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, or to the four-square and sometimes leaden-footed rhythm imposed on Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony.

Noël Goodwin

## Tennstedt hard to replace

Klaus Tennstedt's resignation as music director of the London Philharmonic, after breaking down at rehearsal on Monday, is a severe, if not unexpected, blow to this ambitious orchestra. There is no obvious successor, so the LPO will be without a principal conductor at a time of intense speculation about all the London orchestras' futures.

The best-known conductors with whom the LPO has established casual links — Daniel Barenboim, Riccardo Muti or Simon Rattle — are committed to other projects until the 1990s; contenders like the highly-rated Semyon Bychkov and the young Austrian Franz Welser-Möst are as yet largely unknown to the London public. — R.M.

## Hilarious hat trick

## THEATRE

The Life of  
Napoleon  
Riverside

It is a long time since I found myself laughing out loud while reading a theatre programme; jokey entries are generally pretty wretched. Yet the info for this 90-minute journey along the life of the Little Emperor not only lists the supporting cast — Edward Fox, Marlene Dietrich, Orson Welles, Woody Allen — but contains instructions for folding the programme afterwards into a Napoleonic hat.

I prefer not to remark on its success as a hat other than to mention a tendency to slip upwards over the forehead. But then I lack the black streaks of hair affected by the Emperor, and by John Sessions who plays him, as well as a fine selection of his contemporaries, though the voices are all our contemporaries, give or take a decade: Donald Sinden, Tony Hancock. Dirty Den.

The stage, naturally, is a map of Europe. An obelisk marks Paris and up this Sessions sometimes clambers to call upon the citizens and armies of France. The rest of



John Sessions: calling on the citizens and armies of France

the time he is dashing about the Continent, giving us the low-down on the facts of his life from the womb (literally) to the tomb (very nearly).

When he is funny he is very, very funny; when he is not funny he is never dull. His command of other people's voices ranges between the creditably competent and the perfectly extraordinary.

Most remarkable of all are the faces he gets absolutely right at the same time. The open mouth of his Alec McCowen, doing his best to defend Toulon, is uncannily recognizable as he snaps out the cut-off syllables. There are

dreadful puns, highly intelligent puns, fractured français, showbiz deflations, pastiches of literary styles, parodies of well-known voices — few of which need the identifying tags that Sessions feels obliged to give them.

This takes his performance down to the level of Variety whereas really he is like nobody else. He uses language like a poet; he can jump from the raft at Tilsit to Huck Finn on the Mississippi and make the metaphor work. And he indicates very pertinent views about Death and Glory.

Jeremy Kingston

## British vitality

## EARLY MUSIC

Stephen Pettitt at a  
young festival in the  
depths of Burgundy

widely noted success on the Edinburgh fringe, but its impact in Britain has since been limited for want of sponsorship. On the evidence presented at Ancy le Franc, however, Opera Restor'd remains a vital and refreshing force, and it is good news that British audiences will be able to see the group in action on the South Bank next year.

Here the company presented four works in productions by Jack Edwards, only one of which — Purcell's *Diode* and Aeneas — was a repertory piece. There was John Frederick Lampe's "mock-opera" *Pyramus and Thisbe* (1745) and a double bill (necessarily staged indoors, in an impressive large paneled hall, for the performances I saw) which contrasted *The Death of Dido*, composed in 1716 by Han-

del's great London rival Johan Christoph Pepusch, with Charles Dibdin's outrageously silly *The Ephesian Matron* (1769).

Pepusch's work was magnificently clothed by Robin Linklater and beautifully choreographed and neatly sung too, Brian Gordon's eloquent and emotional counter-tenor garnishing an Aeneas of real significance and Susan Bisatt playing Dido with convincing regal ardency. Despite his reputation, engineered mostly by Burney, as a dry academician, Pepusch clearly possessed a great feeling for drama, an original touch of invention and an ability to compose some scorchingly emotional music.

In the deliberately farcical Dibdin, Bisatt took the role of the servant who mischievously points out the hypocrisy of mourning. Theresa Lister's macon was nicely overwrought, at least until Neil Lum's Centurion distracted her. David Kirkby-Ashmore, as the father, and Alan McMahon, as the dead husband on the bier, completed a sharp cast, while Peter Homan directed the small ensemble from a harpsichord imported from England. Next year, hopefully, ideas and organization will combine more smoothly, and the courtyard will be filled with ordinary Burgundians as well as those of greater resources.

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Terracotta Army  
Playhouse

The Arts Minister missed the point when he suggested that the Edinburgh Festival should think of specializing in fewer arts. It is the festival's diversity that is its chief value, encouraging people who have come primarily because of one special interest to sample something different and perhaps enrich their lives.

This dance drama from Xian is a case in point. Some of the actual statues unearthed there in 1974 were exhibited later at Edinburgh, and now they form the basis of this production. It is really more a pageant than an ordinary dance show and should interest a wide public.

Qin Shi Huang, whose tomb is guarded by the 6,000 or more lifelike, life-sized statues, united six kingdoms into one empire and seems to have been an enlightened despot. The production puts more emphasis on the enlightenment than the despotism. It shows one of his archers, Qin Feng, dying in battle; his widow carrying a statue in his memory; and the emperor commanding further statues to commemorate his many brave warriors.

This thin and unlikely plot

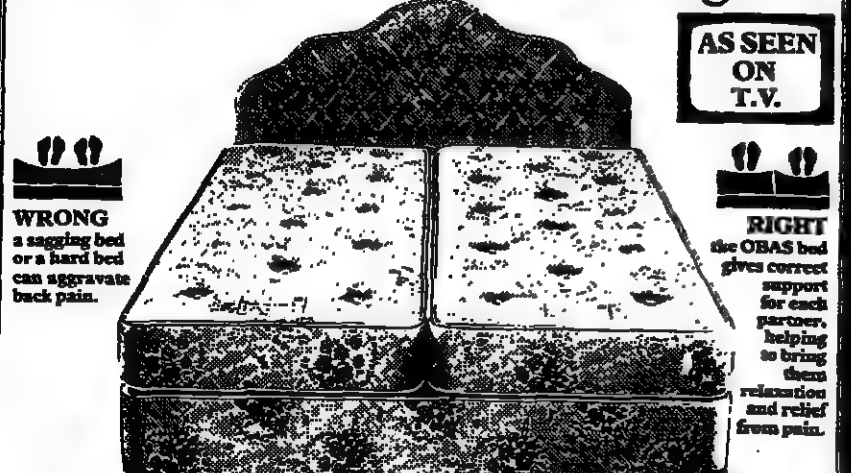
is enough for scenes of battle, public celebration and private grief, and a finale in which almost the entire cast, marching on the spot in front of a painted backdrop, suggest the hordes of clay figures — which are, surprisingly, as unprepossessing dark grey.

The production mixes Chinese and western, ancient and modern. The small orchestra plays on European instruments to achieve an effect that is, to our ears, often unfamiliar but not always so: the early battle scenes bring the Bolshoi *Spartacus* to mind in their music as well as their choreography.

Among the leading players, the performer of Qin Feng has obviously mastered at least some of the acrobatic tricks of Peking Opera. The woman who plays his wife, on the other hand, must surely have had ballet training, and uses her skills to create a touching characterization. I wish I could name these players for the praise they deserve, but the programme merely lists the entire company without saying who does what.

Among the rest of the cast, it is the group effects that most deserve praise, especially a folk-dance in which the women's sleeves suddenly prove to be extensible and produce an impression like waving banners. I must mention, too, a kind of pantomime hippopotamus that joins in the celebrations. At times almost endearingly amateurish, this is an unusual and interesting entertainment.

John Percival

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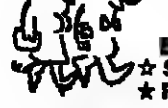






# THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E19XN



**BOOKING KEY**  
★ Seats available  
★ Returns only

## THEATRE

★ **AS IS:** William M Hoffman play from New York about AIDS, with George Costigan as the victim and David Fielder his former lover. Half Moon Theatre, 213 Midland Road E1 (01-750 4000). Tue-Sat 8-9.30pm. £3.50.

★ **BLESS THE BRIDE:** Splendidly staged revival of Vivian Stanshall's warm-hearted, Jan Hartley has a lovely day. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue EC1 (01-278 8916). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm. £15-20. £10-15. £5-10.

★ **BRIGHTON BEACH MEOWS:** Neil Simon's vivid recollection of a Brooklyn childhood. Waves of emotion. John Cunniff joins the cast in an NT transfer. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 8404). Mon-Fri 7.30-8.45pm. Sat 8.30-10.45pm. Wed 8-8.15pm and Sat 7-7.15pm. £4.50-£13.50.

★ **FOLLETS:** Sonnet's musical, in London at last, with Diana Rigg and Julie McKenzie leading a starry cast. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (01-379 5399). Tue-Sat 7.45-10.15pm. Wed 8-8.15pm. £15-20. £10-15. £5-10.

★ **THE GREAT WHITE HORSE:** Hugh Quarshie in his award-winning performance as the first black heavyweight champ. Marmalade Theatre, Princes Dock EC4 (01-254 5568). Tue-Sat 8-8.15pm. £10-15. £5-10.

★ **HIGH SOCIETY:** The show of the film. Stoked with extra Cole Porter. Good performances. Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street, SW1 (01-834 1317). Tue-Sat 8-10.15pm. £15-20. £10-15. £5-10.

★ **JENNA:** Single mother finds help from an odd quarter. Frances McDormand in a ground play from Manchester. Lyric Theatre, Galt Theatre Club, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembroke Road W1 (01-229 0705). Tue-Sat 8-8.15pm. £10-15. £5-10.

★ **MELON:** New Simon Gray play stars Alan Bates as a glittering publisher imploding with sexual jealousy. Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 8832). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm. £15-20. £10-15. £5-10.

★ **PORTRAITS:** New William Douglas-Horne play with Keith Michell as Augustus John and Simon Ward playing three of his sitters (Monty, Matthew Smith and Cecil Beaton).

## TOP 10 UK SINGLES

- (3) Never Gonna Give You Up, Rick Astley RCA
- (10) What Have I Done To Deserve This? Pet Shop Boys & Dusty Springfield Parlophone
- (1) I Just Can't Stop Loving You, Michael Jackson & Siedah Garrett Epic
- (4) Toy Boy, Sinitta Fantasy
- (2) Call Me, Spaga CBS
- (5) Sweet Little Mystery, Wet Wet Wet Phonogram
- (6) The Love Train, New Order Factory
- (11) Funky Town, Pseudo Echo RCA
- (9) Animal, Del Leppard Phonogram
- (8) Somewhere Out There, Linda Ronstadt & James Ingram MCA

## TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

- (1) Hysteria, Def Leppard Phonogram
- (2) Substance, New Order CBS
- (3) Presley - All Time Greatest Hits, Elvis Presley RCA
- (4) Whitney, Whitney Houston Sire
- (5) The Joshua Tree, U2 Island
- (6) True Blue, Madonna Sire
- (7) The Police, The Police Sire
- (8) The Police, The Police Sire
- (9) The Police, The Police Sire
- (10) The Police, The Police Sire

Compiled by Gallup for Music Week/PBC/BPI

Savoy Theatre, The Strand WC2 (01-338 8888). Tue-Sat 8-10.15pm. Wed and Sat 5.7-7.15pm. £5-£13.

★ **SERIOUS MONEY:** Caryl Churchill's searing musical play about the East End transfers after a sell-out run at the Royal Court. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 3028). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm. Fri and Sat 8.15-10.45pm. £15-20. £10-15. £5-10.

★ **WHEN I WAS A GIRL I USED TO SCREAM AND SHOUT:** Dawn French and Sharon Duce as two adolescent girls getting entering the raucous world of Soho sex. Generally successful transfer from the Bush. Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, SW1 (01-530 7765). Mon-Fri 8-8.15pm. Sat 8-10.15pm. £15-20. £10-15. £5-10.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** The Business of Murder. Mayfair Theatre (01-429 9338). Tue-Sat 8-10.15pm. £15-20. £10-15. £5-10.

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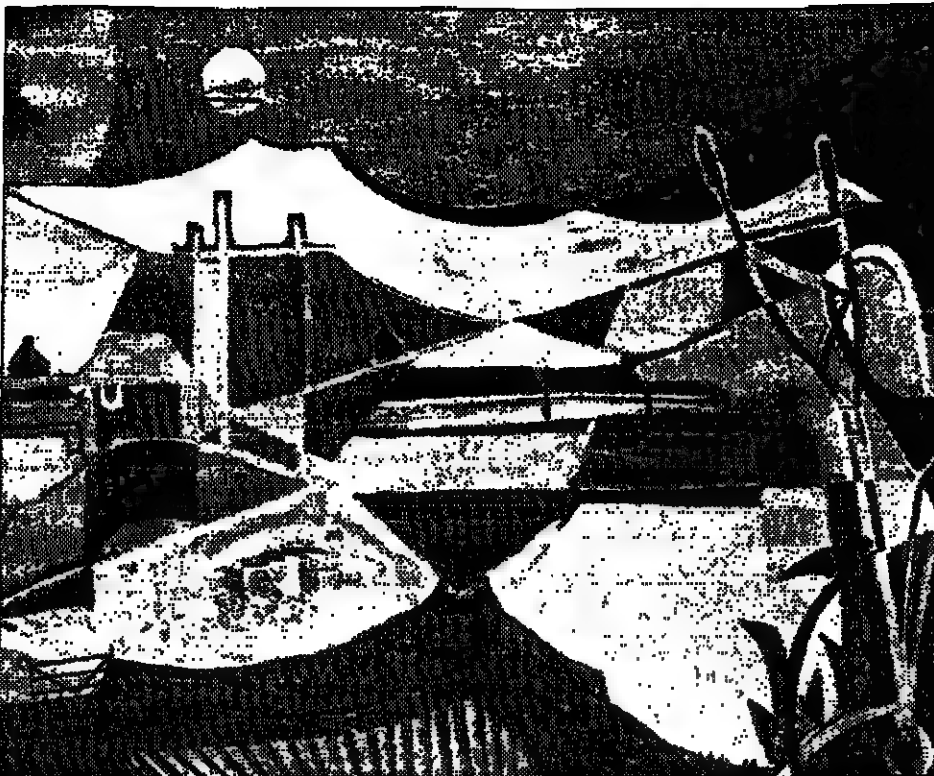
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Landscape, Zennor, 1948 (above), an early picture by Brian Wynter (1915-1975), is a rare work by a painter whose later art developed into a form of decorative abstraction deeply influenced by his observation of the Cornish landscape around St Ives. Wynter is one of 53 painters, featured in 'The Experience of Landscape', a selection from the Arts Council's substantial collection of 20th century British art. The show is designed to describe both the variety of terrain, from coal tip and seaside promenade to Highland glen and summery Sussex, which have inspired British artists and the range of styles through which

they are evoked. The result is a fairly comprehensive account of British painting during the period covered. Besides L. S. Lowry's industrial scenes composed of both real and imaginary locations, the exhibition features work by Paul Nash, Ivan Hitchens, Victor Pasmore and David Bomberg. The exhibition is at Huddersfield Art Gallery, Princess Alexandra Walk, Huddersfield (0484-513888). Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-4pm, from until September 26, following which it begins a long provincial tour starting at York Art Gallery (Oct 3-Nov 8) before arriving in London at the Royal Festival Hall in mid-1988.

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★ **ARTURO SANDOVAL:** Virtuoso Cuban pianist and bandleader, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-438 0747). 9.30pm, £2, (members £2).

★ **STEVE ROSS:** First celebrated at New York's Algonquin Hotel, this young pianist and singer specializes in Porter, Coward and Rodgers. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212). Oct 1-5, 7.30pm, £10-15, £5-10, £2-5.

★ **20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW:** The gallery celebrates two decades with an exhibition of gallery artists including Woodrow, Wertworth, Craig, Deacon, and other 'New School' artists. Lisson Gallery, 66-68 Bell Street, London SW1 (01-262 1539). Tue-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until September 12.

★ **EDUARDO PAOLUZZI:** Early works exhibited outside in the parkish record, among other things, the genesis of Pop Art. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W1 (01-402 6172). Tue-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until October 18.

★ **THE BOLSHOI:** Coy post-punk group with no outrageous image or radical manifesto, who have got lumped with the 'melodic rock' tag. Margrove, 90 Wardour Street, London W1 (01-437 8603). 7pm, £4.50.

★ **HEAD:** The musical smash-and-grabbers from Bristol, featuring their original album 'A Snag On The Rocks'. A mixture of punk, Def Jam and outrage that either thrills or appals. Princess Charlotte, 10 Oxford Street, London W1 (01-333 5535). 8.30pm, £2.

★ **BILLY BRADG:** The Barking band with his original group, Rat Rat, which he has re-formed for this residency. Mean Fiddler, 204 Harlesden High Street, London NW10 (01-861 5480). 8pm, £5, also tomorrow.

★ **MARK ROTHKO (1903-1970):** The final week for a splendid exhibition of 100 paintings by the American abstract expressionist painter. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313). Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until August 31.

★ **HENRY MOORE AND LANDSCAPE:** More than 30 bronzes and plaster sculptures sited memorably in a landscaped park on the sculpture's birthplace in Castleford. Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretford, Wakefield (01924 85302). Tue-Fri 10-6pm, free, until August 31.

★ **OLD WYKE 7616:** Oct 201, 1821. £10.50. Wed 7.30, Sat 2.30, Sat 4.0.

★ **ALLO ALLO:** Directed by Jean YVES ESCOFFIER. £10.50. Wed 7.30, Sat 2.30, Sat 4.0.

★ **THE LAUGHTER YOURS:** Directed by Michael Rodden. £10.50. Wed 7.30, Sat 2.30, Sat 4.0.

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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Davalle  
and Jane Rackham

## The earth strikes back

## TELEVISION CHOICE

David Rudkin's contribution to the *Screenplay* series, *White Lady* (BBC2, 9.45pm) is ostensibly the story of a father whose marriage has come apart, struggling to bring up his two young daughters in the still loneliness of the English countryside. But those familiar with Rudkin's previous work will rightly guess that there is rather more to it than that. Hardly have the opening credits rolled than we are treated to a gruesome slide show of animal and vegetable mutilation — the skeleton of a hamster, the bone marrow of a guinea pig, liver tumours in mice and wheat, beetroot and other crops contaminated by pesticides. Intercutting these stark black and white images with lush footage of swaying barley and abundant fruit trees, Rudkin is making his point about man's unthinking poisoning of the bounty of the good earth. *White Lady* (Meg Wynn Owen), an ethereal apparition bearing a huge scythe, the teller of the tale of the father's quest for revenge as his spirits away the healthy little girls and leaves poisoned changelings for their father to find. It is a bleak and uncomfortable piece which at the same time celebrates the richness of the land (tables piled high with a cornucopia of fruit and vegetables like some overblown harvest festival) and renders questionable the means by which it was produced. Directed by Rudkin himself with a quietly effective use of the telling images, *White Lady* is a passionate polemic which unfolds with icy precision. The father (played by Cornelius Garrett) dutifully feeds and clothes his children, tries to make them strong but wants them to

Meg Wynn Owen as the avenger (in background) and Sophie Thompson in *White Lady* (on BBC2, 9.45pm)

make do on little. He does his best to patch up the derelict farmhouse in which they all live. But he is a cheerless creature, at odds with his world and destined to suffer. We cannot help but suffer with him. The power of Rudkin's script lies in its ability to implicate us all.

**Socially Unacceptable** (Channel 4, 8.30pm) is a new series by Ray Gosling in which he talks to such people as homosexuals, bankrupts, conscientious objectors and, in tonight's first programme, three generations of unmarried mothers. Gosling is one of our finest broadcasters, idiosyncratic in speech and outlook, and he has a natural, genuine sympathy with the people who have chosen to bring up their children as a single parent and in today's changed climate can live off the welfare state, openly and without a trace of shame.

Peter Waymark

## A true tale of skull-digging

## RADIO CHOICE

When you are listening to Radio Wales's blood-chilling documentary *The Brain Operation* (Radio 4, 8.15pm) it is, comparatively speaking, of little importance that reporter Vincent Kane will succeed in doing what he says he hopes he will do: behave in a soldierly spirit as the neurosurgeon saws and drills through the skull and starts cutting away at grey matter underneath. What matters is whether you, the listener, will be able to stay the course. If you survived Dr Jonathan Miller's TV series *The Body in Question*, you should be able to cope with *The Brain Operation*, especially because the surgeon, Robert Weekes, is something of a wag and keeps saying things to Kane like "If you faint, I'll kick you out of the way", and because Kane himself keeps his feet firmly on the ground (a Welsh rugby field) and murmurs something like "second round forward" when Weekes talks about surgery needing a good pair of shoulders.

W.C. Fields as he appeared in the film *The Bank Dick*: Film Star, Radio 4, 12.25pm

There are no errors of judgement and only one of fact (*David Copperfield* was made by MGM, not Paramount) in Alexander Walker's Film Star profile of W.C. Fields (Radio 4, 12.25pm). The bumbling comedian was, indeed, the great misanthrope of the movies, as Walker says: he *did* have to wait until he was under a tombstone before he came to be regarded as

Peter Davalle

lovable: it is absolutely true that he did not act on screen, but rather personified the attitude that since he was in a world of people out to do him down, it behooved him to do them down first. But if "Never give a sucker an even break" became as much his philosophy of life as it was the title of one of his movies, there was another guiding principle he adopted which, as Walker makes clear, was scarcely less quintessentially Fieldian. It was "Never trust a woman behind your back — even when she's only gone there to scratch your back". Although Walker talks of the genius of Fields, he makes no attempt to analyse it. This is not characteristic of Walker, and it leads one to suspect that Fields may well have been so much of an original that he defies the power of the capsule analyst to reduce him to a convenient size.

We regret that, due to a

filing error, the photograph of

Lady Bird Johnson on this

page yesterday was captioned

Betty Ford.

## BBC1

6.00 *Casualty* AM.  
6.30 *Leon Errol in Who's A Dummy?* (b/w). 6.55 *Weather*.  
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, Jeremy Paxman and Pamela Armstrong. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.55, 7.56 and 8.25.  
8.30 *The Pink Panther Show* Three cartoons.  
9.00 *Children's BBC*. Magazine programme presented by Anthea Turner starts with *Charlie Brown*. Cartoon (r). 9.30 *Hartbeat* explores making pictures out of fabric (b/w).  
10.00 *News and weather*. 10.05 *Neighbours* (r).  
10.25 *Play School*, followed by *The Postman* (r). 10.55 *Five to Seven* with the *Church of England* High School.  
11.00 *News and weather*. 11.05 *Zorro's Fighting Legion* (b/w). Art mix of the classic adventure series.  
11.55 *Video Active*. Sue Robbie reports on how to enhance your home videos by adding music and commentary (r).  
12.00 *News and weather*. 12.05 *Dallas* (r).  
12.55 *Regional News and weather*.  
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Helyar, followed by weather.  
1.25 *Neighbours*.  
1.50 *Film: Moon Moon* (1940, b/w). Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy sing their way through *Stardust* (Robinson's songs in this musical about a marriage of convenience that gradually becomes the real thing). Directed by Robert Z. Leonard.  
2.25 *Cartoons*.  
2.45 *Gardeners' Direct Line*. Geoffrey Smith and Gill Sowerbutts attempt to solve your phoned-in gardening problems.

## BBC2

6.55 *Open University*. Community education in Belfast. Ends 7.30.  
8.00 *Cartoons*.  
1.00 *The Pampas* (r).  
1.35 *Cartoons*.  
3.00 *News and weather*, followed by *The Circus* (b/w). In California. Film of the Circus Enbellef, traditional travelling players from Southern Italy who play a town for three days, then pack up and move on.  
3.55 *News and weather*, followed by regional news and weather.  
4.00 *Year of the French*. Documentary about Louis Mahoux, a French parish priest with a passion for the Celtic language and culture (r).  
4.30 *Film: Princess Pats* (1940). Starring Ginger Rogers as the girl from the "wrong side of the tracks" who falls in love with an upper-class youth. Directed by Gregory La Cava.  
5.00 *Film: Flaming Star* (1960). Western drama starring Elvis Presley as a half-breed who is caught in the middle when war breaks out between the Kiowa Indians and the white settlers. Directed by Don Siegel.

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## ITV/LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* introduced by Caroline Righon and Richard Keys. News at 6.00 and 6.30; financial news at 6.35; sport at 6.40; and *Exercises* at 6.55.  
7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Kay Burley and Richard Keys. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30.  
8.35 *Wacaday* with Timmy Mallett and Michaela Strachan.  
9.25 *Thames News* headlines.  
9.30 *Stargay* (r).  
10.00 *The Corn Island* is a beautiful but dangerous coral island (r).  
10.30 *University Challenge*.  
11.00 *Goody Game Show* (r). 11.10 *Albion* (r).  
11.35 *Thames News* headlines.  
11.35 *Tomorrow Talking*. Sixth formers voice their opinions about education.  
12.00 *The Sullivan*. Family drama.  
12.30 *ITN News*. 12.55 *Thames News*.  
1.00 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama set in a remote rural Australian community.  
2.00 *Password*. John Inman and Maura Anderson join Gordon Burns for today's word association game.  
2.30 *Dring in France*. Pierre Salinger visits Champagne to learn how it is produced (r).  
3.00 *Take the High Road*. 3.30 *Thames News* headlines. 3.50 *Sons and Daughters*.  
4.00 *Children's ITV* presented by Gary Terzza and Debbie Shore, starting with *The Teatime Theatre*. 4.10 *Bill the Lizard* (r). 4.30 *Video 8*. Chips. Mack Brown, Sonya Saul and Mike Sharp explore a pile of rubbish, and discover you can make some wonderful things from junk. 4.35 *Dennis* (r).  
4.50 *Hold Tight* with Barrie Wilde, and Graham Stark. 5.15 *Adventures*. 5.45 *News*.

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6.30 *The House Services*. Judith Chalmers visits a Benedictine abbey, home of *Crossroads* actress Gabrielle Drake, and Andy Craig reports from the *Corn Island* where a 20-year fight ended in victory for the local people.  
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# Nine die, thousands flee as deluge hits Europe



Switzerland's Reuss valley, with Föhren railway station under water and the flooded town of Altdorf in the background



Smiles from the umpires at Lords as flooding forces a draw. (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)



An engine and two of its carriages are derailed after the train ran into a mudslide in Switzerland

By Andrew Morgan

At least nine people died and thousands more were moved from their homes yesterday after heavy storms struck Europe. In Britain, the South-east had the heaviest rain, and Hounslow, in Suffolk, received more than two inches in 12 hours. The storms stem from a deep depression centred on southern areas of the North Sea. The London Weather Centre said the European storms came

from hot, humid southerly winds while the British downpours were from a colder, northerly airflow. In the northern Italian area of the Valtellina, holidaying Britons were among 25,000 people moved from 20 mountain village homes when a state of emergency was declared after the River Adda flooded the area to cut road and rail links and prompt landslides. Last month, 28 people were killed during a mudslide and yesterday's situation became grave when an artificial lake

created by the July landslide started to rise dangerously during the night. To the east of Milan, the River Adige broke its banks and several camp sites were evacuated. Three people were killed in the Swiss canton of Valais, where the Rhone rose to dangerous levels and torrents swept away cars. The Uri canton was cut off and in the Grisons canton the ski resorts of Davos, Arosa, Flims and Seefeld were cut off and a train derailed in the landslides. The St Gotthard road

and rail tunnels were closed for fear of flooding and are likely to remain so until the weekend. International trains were diverted through Austria's Brenner tunnel, 150 miles to the east. In Belgium, three old people drowned in their homes in villages surrounding the industrial city of Charleroi when the river Sambre rose two metres in 15 minutes. Two of the dead were asleep in bed when they died. Drowned cattle floated in the village

streets and damage was estimated in millions of pounds. Paris recorded four inches of water in 24 hours, its worst downpour since 1873 and firemen received more than 2,000 calls. About 2,000 holidaymakers, including Britons, were moved from campsites all over France, including a popular site at Bois de Boulogne. Strong winds and rain demolished one site at Larque-des-Albères in the Languedoc-Roussillon region, overturning 15 cars

and uprooting trees. In London, a demonstration by Friends of the Earth against aerosols, which they say damage the Earth's natural defences against solar radiation, was called off because of the rain. The London Weather Centre said the unsettled conditions were likely to continue in the North during the week and into the Bank Holiday weekend although a ridge of high pressure would bring improvements in the south and west.

## Tory Party shake-up

### HQ to become nerve centre

Continued from page 1

giving advice and help when required.

Sources close to Mr Tebbit say he is well aware of these obstacles to change and he is likely to recommend a gradualist approach in his talks with the Prime Minister.

The fate of the latest proposals is likely to be a factor in determining Mr Tebbit's immediate future.

He is currently torn between stepping down immediately after the party conference in Blackpool in October or remaining in his present post for another two years and seeing through the shake-up before handing over to a successor charged with galvanizing the party for the next election.

He would then retire to the backbenches where he hopes he can play an important role in the Government and exerting influence over the choice of a new leader should Mrs Thatcher decide to stand down before the next election.

The first signs of the planned Tory upheaval emerged yesterday when it was disclosed that Mr John Mackay, the former Conservative MP and Scottish Office minister, is expected to be named on Thursday as the man to revive flagging Tory fortunes in Scotland.

Mr Mackay is poised to replace Mr Bill Henderson as director of the Scottish Central Office in Edinburgh.

Mr Mackay was one of 11 Tory election casualties in

Scotland, a reversal that slashed its Commons representation to 10 MPs.

Mr Tebbit formally wound up the Anglo-Asian Conservative Society and the National Anglo-West Indian Conservative Society and announced a One Nation Forum in their place.

As previously disclosed in *The Times*, he decided to act late last year after an internal Tory party investigation found that the leadership of the 8,000-strong Asian group had fallen under the influence of Sikh extremists.

The new forum will be initially chaired by Mr Peter Morrison, the deputy chairman of the party, and will include co-opted party members representing a wider range

## Howe denies change of policy on reflagging

Continued from page 1

are a purely administrative matter," he said.

"The Government should immediately announce that no more applications for the reflagging of oil tankers from Kuwait and other Gulf states will be accepted. The more British reflagged tankers there are in the Gulf, the greater the difficulty for the Royal Navy in assisting and protecting them," he said.

According to shipping sources in London the only Kuwaiti oil tanker reflagged under the Red Ensign is halfway to the Gulf. The 26,000-tonne Modhi, reflagged in Gibraltar last month, left Singapore for Bahrain on August 18.

A Department of Transport spokesman said yesterday: "We have not received any

application from a Kuwaiti vessel to be re-registered in London." And Captain Frederick Hayward, the Registrar of British Ships in Gibraltar, said that no Kuwaiti ships were being registered "at the moment and we have none in our pipeline."

WASHINGTON: The US State Department issued an unusual clarification to its earlier announcement that Britain was about to reflag a Kuwaiti tanker (Michael Bunyon writes).

The later statement said the move to re-register the ship did not involve the British Government. It was issued "to avoid any misunderstanding about British procedures for reflagging," the department said. It added: "We would like to note that reflagging to the British is considered merely an administrative matter."

## Contempt law change

### Press can fight court orders

Continued from page 1

prosecution witness because it would cause distress to her and her family. Her name was nonetheless mentioned in open court.

Mr Crook tried to challenge the ban in the High Court. But the judges held they had no jurisdiction to review the decision.

Mr Crook took the case to the European Commission which ruled the lack of any review procedure was a breach of his rights under the European Convention.

Yesterday Mr David Newell, legal and parliamentary secretary of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, gave a reserved welcome to

the change but said it did not go far enough.

"The change means that the press can challenge an order made in the crown court before the divisional court, in the same way that magistrates' orders can be challenged."

"But it takes several months to get such a hearing on, by which time—even if the ban is lifted—it may be too late for any meaningful reporting of the case."

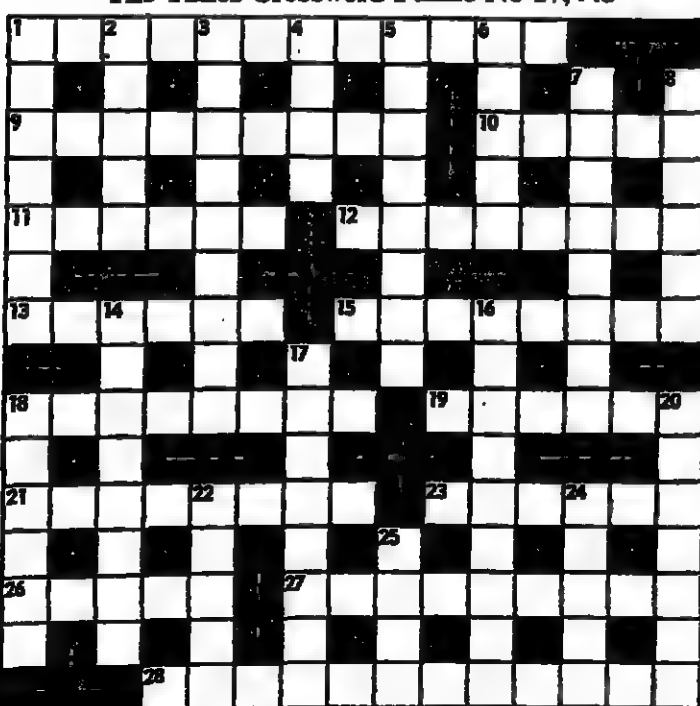
The Guild had wanted a practice direction to be issued which would limit the circumstances in which crown court judges could make banning orders under sections 4 or 11 of the Contempt of Court Act.

Second, it wanted the media to be told in advance when a judge intended to make such an order so it could make representations either through the prosecution or on its own behalf.

If crown court orders made under the Contempt Act were to be reviewable by the divisional court, then why not a whole range of other orders which caused concern, he said.

These included the powers of courts to decide to sit in camera or to make orders under the Children and Young Persons Act aimed at protecting the identity of children which sometimes also inadvertently gave protection to a defendant.

## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,445



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 40 per cent of the competitors at the 1987 London B regional final of The Times Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Attic drama (4,2,3,3).
  - 2 Finished a casual sort of shirt, quite plain (5).
  - 3 Noah was an inventive man (9).
  - 4 Touch up some brass (4).
  - 5 Looks on minerals as horrible things (8).
  - 6 A spot of pleasure, like being in love is (5).
  - 7 Basis for using broken-down steed in round-up (8).
  - 8 Editorial includes French, British and German articles (6).
  - 9 Cloth-worker's rank (8).
  - 10 The ebb-tide? (9).
  - 11 An offer of money might make turn cross with one (8).
  - 12 Drink and exercise in a flexible way (6).
  - 13 Set right with regard to the outfit (7).
  - 14 Wears of being told to go around quietly (5).
  - 15 Turning in of leaves in a plant (5).
  - 16 Some American Indians are very beautiful (4).
- DOWN**
- 1 Book—that's what's needed for a rainy day? (7).

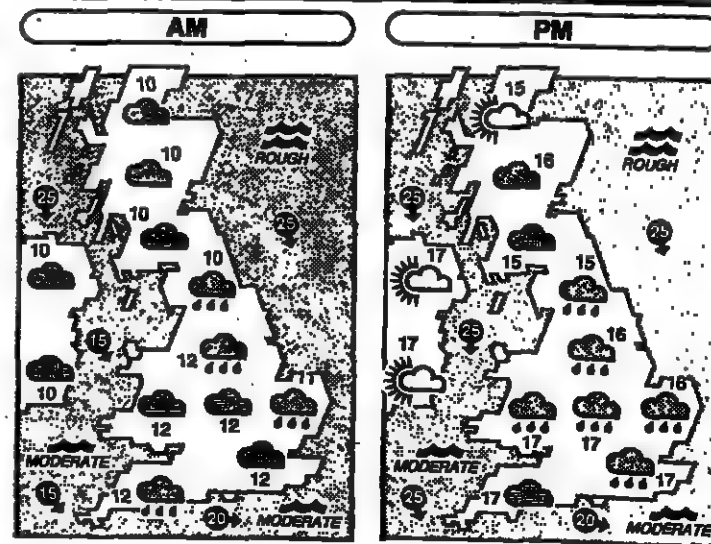
Concise crossword, page 7

## WEATHER

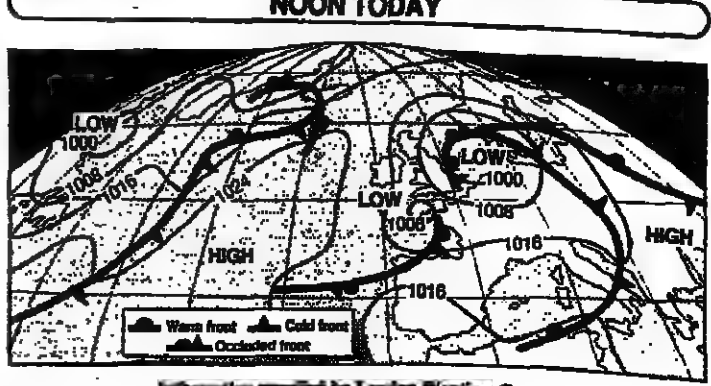
A low pressure area remains slow moving over the North Sea, extending a trough over England and Wales. Eastern Scotland, northern and eastern England will remain cloudy with outbreaks of rain, which will be heavy in places. Showery rain will affect the south-west and the Channel Islands at times during the day. The remainder of the country will also be rather cloudy with some showery rain at times, with perhaps some brighter or sunnier intervals in the far north-west. Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Becoming more settled and warmer in the south and west. The north and east remaining rather cloudy with rain or showers.

ABROAD		AROUND BRITAIN		HIGH TIDES	
City	Temp	City	Temp	City	Temp
Algeria	25	London	15	London	15
Amsterdam	15	Manchester	14	Manchester	14
Antwerp	15	Cardiff	13	Cardiff	13
Athens	25	Belfast	12	Belfast	12
Bombay	30	Birmingham	14	Birmingham	14
Buenos Aires	25	Bristol	13	Bristol	13
Cairo	30	Cardiff	13	Cardiff	13
Calcutta	30	Edinburgh	12	Edinburgh	12
Canton	25	Glasgow	11	Glasgow	11
Cebu	30	Harrogate	14	Harrogate	14
Colon	25	Leeds	13	Leeds	13
Hankow	25	Liverpool	12	Liverpool	12
Hong Kong	25	London	15	London	15
Kobe	25	Manchester	14	Manchester	14
Lyons	15	Cardiff	13	Cardiff	13
Manila	30	Belfast	12	Belfast	12
Medan	25	Birmingham	14	Birmingham	14
Osaka	25	Bristol	13	Bristol	13
Peking	25	Edinburgh	12	Edinburgh	12
Rangoon	25	Glasgow	11	Glasgow	11
San Francisco	15	Harrogate	14	Harrogate	14
Singapore	30	Leeds	13	Leeds	13
Sourabaya	25	Liverpool	12	Liverpool	12
Tientsin	25	London	15	London	15
Yokohama	25	Manchester	14	Manchester	14

THE POUND		YESTERDAY	
City	Rate	City	Rate
Australia	1.50	London	1.00
Canada	0.75	Manchester	1.00
Denmark	6.46	Cardiff	1.00
France	6.55	Belfast	1.00
Germany	2.36	Birmingham	1.00
Italy	1.36	Bristol	1.00
Japan	163.00	Edinburgh	1.00
Netherlands	2.20	Glasgow	1.00
Portugal	200.48	Harrogate	1.00
Spain	166.36	Leeds	1.00
Sweden	8.46	Liverpool	1.00
Switzerland	1.53	London	1.00
USA	1.53	Manchester	1.00
Yugoslavia	138.00	Cardiff	1.00



LIGHTING-UP TIME		LONDON	
City	Time	City	Time
London	5.31 pm to 5.34 am	London	5.31 pm to 5.34 am
Belfast	5.41 pm to 5.44 am	Belfast	5.41 pm to 5.44 am
Birmingham	5.44 pm to 5.38 am	Birmingham	5.44 pm to 5.38 am
Bristol	5.44 pm to 5.38 am	Bristol	5.44 pm to 5.38 am
Cardiff	5.44 pm to 5.38 am	Cardiff	5.44 pm to 5.38 am
Edinburgh	5.44 pm to 5.38 am	Edinburgh	5.44 pm to 5.38 am
Glasgow	5.44 pm to 5.38 am	Glasgow	5.44 pm to 5.38 am



Service 1500











# Hanson Trust likely to beat £700 million

By Michael Tate

Hanson Trust looks on target for annual profits of £700 million with nine months of its current year completed.

Lord Hanson, the chairman, yesterday unveiled a 71 per cent increase in profits for the three quarters to the end of June, at £517 million, from £302 million a year ago, and looked forward with confidence to the rest of the year.

Group sales of £4.93 billion were 62 per cent higher than at the same point in the previous year.

As befits a company which makes half its profits in the US, Hanson has adopted the American custom of reporting its results quarterly.

This is a move which Sir Gordon White, who runs Hanson's US operations, says will allow shareholders and the rest of the financial community to follow more closely the company's progress.

And while it can produce such impressive performance figures, everyone will be delighted.

The third quarter, which includes a full contribution from Kaiser Cement, acquired last January for £200 million (£123 million), and an additional one month's result from Imperial Group, acquired at the end of May 1986, saw the group achieve a 30 per cent increase in profits, from £144

million to £205 million, despite a standstill in turnover at £1.46 billion.

The tax charge for the three-month period is up from £28 million to £45 million, leaving net profits of £160 million against £116 million. After nine months, the tax liability is £123 million against £72 million, leaving net earnings of £394 million against £230 million.

Commenting on the figures, Lord Hanson said that the excellent progress reflected in the half-year figures had continued into the third quarter, with good performance from the group's businesses in Britain and the US.

Earnings per share for the

three-month period were up from 3.6p to 4.4p, making 10.8p for the nine months against 7.9p. After adjusting for future share conversions, the three-month earnings figure is 3.8p and the nine-month figure 9.8p.

Analysts believe Hanson is capable of up to £720 million for the full year, which would lift earnings per share above 13p, and suggesting a price earnings ratio of around 14 at the current stock market price of 191p.

The group is to seek shareholder approval for its \$1.6 billion acquisition of the US multinational Kodak at a shareholders' meeting in London next month.

## Phicom in US takeover mission

By Our City Staff

Mr Christopher Bland, who turned the £800,000 engineering company Sir Joseph Causton into a £21 million business then sold it to Norton Opax two years ago, is about to apply his expansion techniques to Phicom.

Yesterday, he unveiled half-year profits of £650,000 at Phicom, against a loss of £357,000 at the same stage last year. Today, he will fly to the United States to look at possible acquisitions.

He does not expect to come back with a deal, "but then I never do," he says. Whatever the outcome of this trip, it clearly will not be long before Phicom's new management is announcing its first takeover.

Mr Bland says that a number of several "highly attractive opportunities are being considered in detail".

After Robert Fleming's revamping of the company before inviting Mr Bland to take over, Phicom's activities centre on life sciences. It makes equipment for diagnosing illnesses and diseases from cells and tissue at its factory at Runcorn, Cheshire.

America is its biggest market, contributing 40 per cent of the £7.78 million half-year turnover, with Britain second, accounting for 15 per cent. Phicom is the only quoted company in its field. On full dilution its earnings are 81p a share at half-year. The interim dividend is raised by 50 per cent to 3p a share.

## Scholes price tumbles as Delta bid fails

Shares in Wylen electrical components group George H. Scholes tumbled 40p to 305p yesterday as Delta Group admitted it had failed in its £70 million attempt to win control of the business.

Delta's bid attracted acceptance from holders of only 29.4 per cent of Scholes' shares by yesterday's noon deadline and the offer lapsed.

The result is something of a personal triumph for Mr Reg Harrington, Scholes managing director, who will succeed Mr George McDowell as chairman on September 1. Delta had launched its bid only after it believed it had Mr McDowell's support for an offer of 550p a share.

Mr Harrington, "delighted" with the result, succeeded, however, in convincing most shareholders

## Sir Ian fails to shine as investors' friend

COMMENT

What is Sir Ian MacGregor up to? He has, it seems, agreed to stand as a rebel director of British Gas. This would require him being elected by the votes of 3 million British Gas shareholders, a significant proportion of the general public.

Yet Sir Ian has not circulated the shareholders. It is not surprising that Sir Ian and his backers from the old steel club at Sheffield Forgemasters have neglected that course. It would cost about £700,000, the sum already knocked off shareholders' funds by the late proposal of his name just before the deadline for Thursday's annual meeting of the privatized utility, which obliged British Gas to send a separate letter to shareholders.

There are other methods. Sir Ian could have put out a public statement saying why he should join the British Gas board against the wishes of its present board. He has not done so. He could have made himself available to the press, an efficient means of communicating with so large a band of shareholders. He has not done so.

Finally, he could belatedly argue his case at the annual meeting. Yet Sheffield Forgemasters says that Sir Ian will unfortunately not be able to attend the meeting. Far from wooing shareholders, it appears that Sir Ian will treat them with contempt.

It would be charitable to suppose that Sir Ian, for the sake of old friendships, did not realize what he was letting himself in for. Yet that would be a remarkable misjudgement for one of his experience. For it does not take much imagination to work out that the move by Philip Wright of Sheffield Forgemasters opens the door to widespread abuse of the new spirit of mass share ownership.

As an industrial customer, Mr Wright has a long-running dispute with British Gas over its commercial practices. Under the Gas Act, some protection against monopoly is provided for domestic consumers and other small users by Ofgas, the watchdog. No such special protection was provided for industrial contract customers. Mr Wright has instead taken the correct course of complaining to the universal watchdog, the Office of Fair Trading — and good luck to him.

But Sheffield Forgemasters has also followed the time-honoured path of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and other protest bodies of buying a few British Gas shares in order to kick up a fuss at the annual meeting. Mr Wright will propose Sir Ian as a director. He will presumably stress what a good fellow the former British Steel chairman is and how much good he can do on the board in improving relations with customers — and not air his particular grievances.

Under British company law, how-

ever, the directors of companies are there to represent the interests of shareholders — as shareholders. The board is not a forum for all interested parties.

The late timing of Mr Wright's application, too late for the annual report and notice of meeting, has, however, opened up new possibilities of causing trouble. The potential has now been revealed for mischief costing shareholders dear and causing widespread misunderstanding and confusion in companies with a list of shareholders running into millions. It will no doubt be exploited by others.

## Opec leaking again

The decision by Opec's president to act swiftly to find out which of the cartel's 13 members have been cheating on their output quota and by implication to threaten some form of disciplinary action may in itself be enough to stop the fall in world oil prices.

In the past Opec quota agreements have been widely abused. But the most recent agreement appeared to stand more chance of success, especially as it gave Opec back some of the control on the world oil price which it had surrendered at the end of 1985 when it adopted a policy of defending its market share.

The present oversupply, with as much as 2 million barrels a day in excess of Opec's 16.6 million barrels a day quota flooding the market, may eventually be explained in detail. But it need not be permanent. A cold, wet week in Europe and the prospect of more industrial trouble in the British coalfields could also mop up excess output and move prices back upwards.

However, it is also likely that Iran has been stepping up its output through the two pipelines it has to the Mediterranean coast of Turkey, to pay for military equipment. Iraq is not covered by the Opec quota system — a concession suggested by Iran last summer to allow a new price agreement to be reached — but the other 12 Opec members expect it to abide by the spirit of their agreement and keep output to close to historic averages.

It now seems that pressure will be put on Iraq to come back into the fold and accept an enforceable quota. If such an agreement can be worked out at Vienna next month then Opec should again be able to nudge the world price back upwards, but an Opec with one of its major producers operating a free-for-all production policy would be in no position to set a price and certainly be in no position to continue demanding that Britain should co-operate by trimming its North Sea output to support a firmer price.

## Hongkong Bank in 18% climb

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation reported after-tax profits up almost 18 per cent to HK\$1,412 billion (£113 million) for the first half.

Local analysts had at best expected a 14 per cent rise in profits. Yesterday, however, Mr William Purves, chairman, pointed to buoyant economic conditions, stock market highs, low unemployment and rising property prices.

The bank's 51 per cent-owned US subsidiary Marine Midland had a tough time because of its exposure to Third World debt and, as a result, incurred a US\$290 million (£178 million) loss in the second quarter.

The bank is treating its share of the loss as a one-off extraordinary item to come out of its vast inner reserves and so it will have no discernible effect on the year's profit figures.

The Hongkong Bank wants complete control of Marine Midland and has launched a takeover bid for the shares it does not already own, offering US\$70 a share.

It took full control of Hongkong Bank of Australia in June by buying up the 20 per cent it did not already own and last month the New Zealand authorities gave Mr Purves and his team a full banking licence.

The bank's total assets amount to HK\$801 billion, 12 per cent higher than at the end of last year. Shareholders' funds stood at HK\$31 billion, compared with HK\$26.5 billion in December.

## Eurotunnel ready to start £750m offer this autumn

By Joe Joseph

Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium building the Channel tunnel, yesterday confirmed that 50 international banks had underwritten a £5 billion loan to finance construction of the twin-rail link, paving the way for Eurotunnel's crucial £750 million public share sale in November.

The 18-year loan is conditional on the success of the equity offering, which Eurotunnel plans to close in a busy autumn diary in the City. Investors already face demands for their funds from a string of rights issues, second calls on recent privatizations and the £7.5 billion BP share sale in October.

Mr Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's British co-chairman, said yesterday: "Representatives of the five arranging banks — NatWest, Midland, Banque Indosuez, Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais — confirmed on Monday that the underwriting is now in place."

Joining the list of underwriters are Barclays, Lloyds and Standard Chartered. He added: "The marketing campaign for Equity 3 will not get going until October and will be paced to reach its climax between the BP sale and Christmas."

Mr Morton and Mr André Benard, his French counterpart, will set off on a tour of the world's leading financial centres this week to help the underwriters spread their commitments among a wider range of banks.

Mr Morton, who is fighting off predators for Guinness



Hands full: Alastair Morton announces the £5bn is funded

Peat, the merchant bank he also chairs, said: "The important message we will now be giving to the banks around the world is what a very robust project this is. Unlike many other long-term investments, the tunnel has a strong and rising cash flow."

He anticipates little difficulty selling the £750 million of equity in November. He said doubts about the project's feasibility which plagued Eurotunnel's fund-raising efforts last year were behind it.

"You also have to remember the modest size of this issue compared with the re-

cent privatizations like British Airways. Less than £300 million will be offered in this country, the equivalent in France and the rest in Japan, Europe and America."

The advice to would-be investors, according to Mr Morton, will be "Buy Eurotunnel — you will get no dividend for several years but you will see high and rising capital values and strong dividend yields in future years. It will be pitched as a good investment for people who want that kind of investment."

## McAlpine drops

By Lawrence Levy

Alfred McAlpine, the construction, minerals and homes group, yesterday announced a £1.3 million fall in half-year pretax profits but it increased its interim dividend from 4p to 4.4p.

Profits before tax for the six months to June 30 were £5.69 million against £7 million in the previous first half.

The decline was overshadowed by the company at the time of its full-year results in February. It said then that after the sale of its South African subsidiary its com-

panies were vulnerable to severe winter conditions which were likely in future to depress figures in the first half of its financial year when compared with the full year.

It said yesterday that the wet winter had affected many of its British companies while the eastern seaboard of the US, where all its American subsidiaries are located, also had an unusually bad winter.

However, it added that most of its companies were still predicting results in line with expectations

## 'Electronic surge'

By Robert Matthews

Britain's semiconductor industry may be emerging at last from its recession and creating an upsurge in demand for capital equipment in the process, says a survey of leading chip manufacturing facilities.

The survey, commissioned by European Semiconductor magazine and Cahners, organizers of next month's Semiconductor International Exhibition, found more than 80 per cent of the industry's senior engineers and managers expected an upsurge in capital equipment and investment

into research and development in the next three years.

The industry is increasing investment in inspection and test technology to back the automation of production lines which demand advanced quality-control techniques.

Manufacturing equipment companies hoping to benefit from the boom will, however, have to improve their image. The semiconductor manufacturing industry survey, Cahners Exhibitions, 59 London Road, Twickenham TW1 3SZ; 01 891-5051.

## Fertile field for investment

It might sound unbelievable but a British company looks like being given the Papal seal of approval for a revolutionary new contraceptive kit. The kit, which should be available in an over-the-counter form within the next two years, is a by-product of a fertility testing kit developed by Boots-Celtech — an independent diagnostics company 50 per cent owned by Boots and 50 per cent by private biotechnology company Celtech. The kit gives two or three days earlier warning of ovulation than others already available, thus dramatically increasing its effectiveness. Enthusiastic trials in Dublin have prompted an unofficial note of approval from the Catholic church there, and if full Papal approval is eventually received, the product could be used for as many as 100 million tests a year. The fertility kit, which should be on the market before the end of 1987, is expected to be used for 10 million tests a year. Prototype kits are this week being shown to London International Group, which has bought the rights to market them in Europe and the UK — plus joint rights with Boots-Celtech elsewhere in the world.

Girl talk  
Once bitten, twice shy, and City PR firm Binns Cornwall yesterday delayed the start of its meeting for computer firm Norsk Data with the Press.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY Thriller in the City

Few stockbrokers or merchant bankers can boast that they get as warm and attentive a reception as Michael Jackson when he goes on company visits. Jackson, aged 37, is corporate development director of financial services group Guidehouse — shares in which begin dealings on the USM tomorrow — and is regularly greeted by an eager welcoming committee of female employ-

ees, whose facial expressions rapidly reveal their disappointment once they realise that he is neither black, American nor a pop singer. "It often helps me get tables in restaurants," Jackson tells me, "but once when I was trying to book a flight in the States they forced me to use my second name — Edward — because they said we were taking the booking seriously."

or so. Apparently at the disclosure of its year-end results in February, one female analyst grabbed the information sheet — ahead of the official announcement — and was caught hiding in a corridor attempting to contact her market makers. "Women are the worst offenders," says Anderson. "They hide the phones in their handbags."

Pop up  
The stock market may have risen faster than at any time in its history but it still hasn't outstripped the world of pop memorabilia. According to Alison Fox, a specialist at Phillips, the auctioneers, the prices fetched by artefacts of the pop world have doubled in the past 18 months. The sale, at Phillips today, of notes scribbled on the back of an envelope by Beatle John Lennon — later used in his book *A Spaniard in the Works* — is expected to fetch as much as £15,000.

## Belting for Earl

Dr Ashraf Marwan's decision to choose Benlox as the vehicle for his British activities — by taking what will be a 15.4 per cent stake and his first executive directorship of a British company to boot — is not without its irony for individualistic merchant banker Peter Earl. Marwan, a former Egyptian cabinet minister and son-in-law of the late President Nasser, hit the headlines here last year when he built up an 11 per cent stake in Exel, then sank the bid hopes of the Demogor Corporation — Earl's brainchild — by flogging the shares to Robert Maxwell. But Earl, who is also a director of Benlox, bears no grudges. Indeed, it was he who introduced the Monaco-based property millionaire to Benlox. "The deal he did with Maxwell was very irritating for me, to say the least," Earl admits. "But it was a great deal for him — and I'm happier to have someone like that on my side than against me."

Top pharmaceutical analyst Linda Tremaine is returning to the northern shores of the Thames early next month — she is leaving stockbroker Savory Milin to become head of European pharmaceutical research at Robert Fleming Securities. Fleming Securities, the stockbroking arm of the merchant bank, has also strengthened its chemicals team with the recruitment of Andrew Benson from Postel, the Post Office pension fund.

Carol Leonard

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Being prudent you waited a month or so before having a second go. You then followed another of our penny share tips, Dollond's Photographic, and invested the whole of the £2,068. Ten weeks later the shares had gone from 78p to 155p. You sold on our advice, and your original £500 had risen to £3,924.

Faithfully following our buy/sell recommendations you then saw your capital quickly multiply:

Share	Buy Price	Sell Price	Profit	Capital after sale
Seazon	12p	52p	40p	£540
Dollond's Photographic	78p	155p	77p	£834
Seazon	12p	52p	40p	£874

After this major success you decided not to put all your eggs in one basket. So you spent £12,067 buying Lanes at 174p, keeping back £760 to take a small plunge with WSL (another profitable prospect), buying 2000 shares at 38p. But whoopee! Seeing the share drop to 37p after a month a feeling of panic made you sell — losing you £34. If you had waited a few more weeks you would have taken a profit of £290. Then on July 10, you decided to sell Lanes at 40p, yielding you £27,519, and you resolved to go back in at the earliest opportunity.

### WHY YOU CAN ACT WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE

Following our tip on July 17 1985 you invested the entire proceeds from the sale of Lanes and WSL — £28,225, in Greene King & Sons. Eight weeks later, when we told you to sell, the share had risen from 162p to 211p and you found yourself sitting on a small fortune of

£35,938. Over the next 19 months your record looked like this:

Share	Buy Price	Sell Price	Profit	Capital after sale
Greene King	162p	211p	49p	£40,938
Seazon	12p	52p	40p	£41,338
Consolidated Anglo	112/25p	12/25p	10p	£41,438
WPP Group	25/25p	12/25p	10p	£41,538
New York Group	24/25p	12/25p	10p	£41,638
Am. Overseas	1/25p	7/25p	6p	£41,698
Northampton Bank	7/25p	11/25p	4p	£41,738
Waters	1/25p	25/25p	24p	£41,762

And that's how you could have — in the space of less than five years — increased £500 into an amazing £193,637! There would have been some tax to pay but with a capital gain of that size it's almost a pleasure to pay the Inland Revenue.

The story is imaginary but the investment facts are true. All the buy/sell recommendations you followed appeared on the dates shown in STOCKMARKET CONFIDENTIAL. And you could have done even better if you followed our tip to buy Acis Jewellery on 10th June. In just three weeks this share rose from 34p to 378p WHICH COULD HAVE INCREASED YOUR CAPITAL TO WELL OVER £1.5 MILLION!

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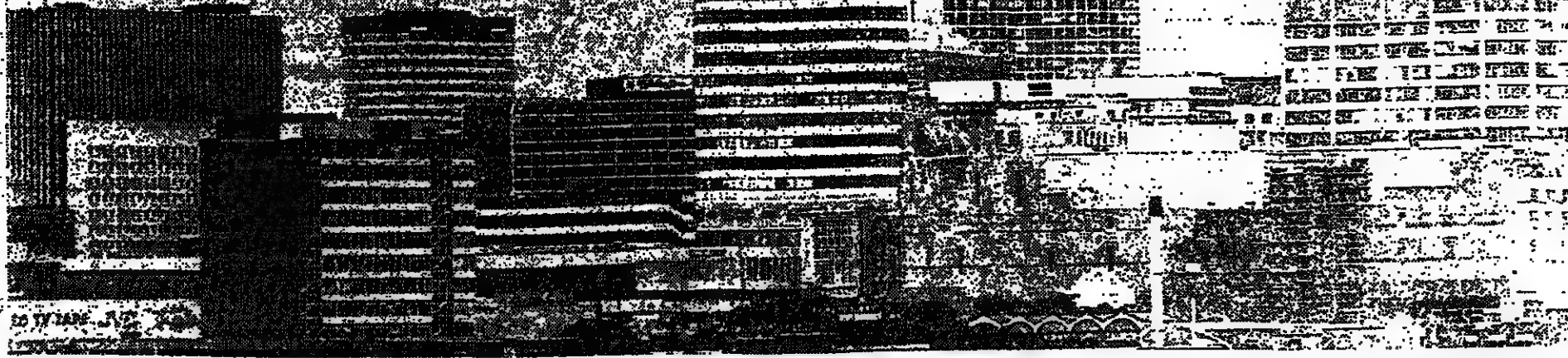
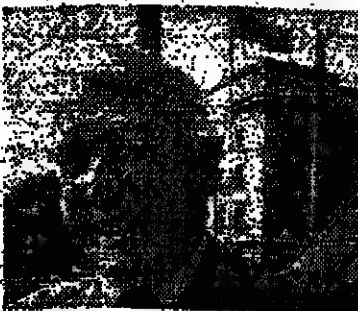


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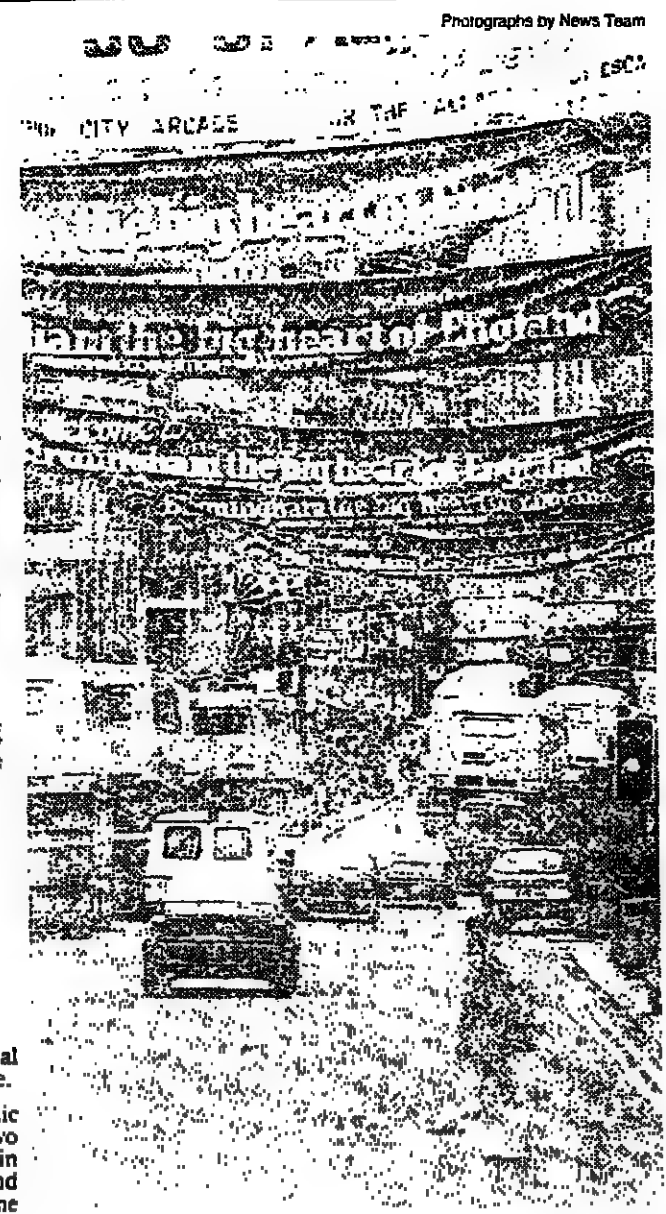


BIRMINGHAM

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT  
By Craig Seton

Tom Caulcott (inset), chief executive of Birmingham City Council; the changing skyline and right, New Street, the main shopping area



## A city's flag flies high

**B**irmingham's emergence from industrial decline may be cautious, but is at last being seen as a reality. The city leaders are painfully aware of the deprivation in inner-city areas, where pockets of high unemployment still blight the prospects of residents.

Nor can it be forgotten that two years ago riots flared in Handsworth, leaving two dead and millions of pounds of damage.

Inner-city regeneration is therefore a top priority for the city council, which is involved in a multitude of schemes with the Government to improve the housing stock of the blighted areas and give training and work to the jobless, many of whom are from the city's ethnic-minority population.

Unemployment is above the national average, but is falling as the number of vacancies increases.

It is estimated that the city lost more than 200,000 jobs in manufacturing between 1971 and 1986 and the rapid decline in the old established "metal-bashing" industries has now led to a significant growth in high-technology, science-based and service industries. While Birmingham has embarked on job-

**Birmingham is set to move into the 1990s in better shape than anyone dared imagine less than 10 years ago. More people are talking about the recession in the past tense and are now inclined to express excitement about initiatives, promotion, aggressive marketing and job-creation**

creating initiatives and pump-priming exercises, it has also staged promotional events to fly the city's flag in Britain and around the world.

Thus, the former city of a thousand trades ambitiously bid, albeit unsuccessfully, to stage the 1992 Olympic Games, and last year staged Britain's first Monaco-style motor-race on public roads. The second Super Prix takes place on a 2.5-mile circuit this Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday when 100,000 spectators are expected.

But, the city's most prized scheme is the £125 million International Convention Centre, now under construction close to the city centre. This is expected to create 2,500 jobs and lure business worth more than £50 million a year when it opens in the early 1990s.

The convention centre was made possible by an EEC grant of more than £37 million. The remainder of

the money will be raised against the assets of the city's National Exhibition Centre. Another new initiative under way is a scheme by the Labour-controlled council and private sector for an urban-development agency to develop 2,000 derelict acres in the Aston-Nechells area. The scheme for land clearance, infrastructure and factory development has received an approving nod from the Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley.

City officials and the five large contractors backing the agency, together with the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, hope they can attract urban-development grants from the Government and regional-development grants from the EEC.

Tom Caulcott, the council's chief executive, said the agency would be private-sector led and added: "The Government has said it will look favourably on grant applications. In

Birmingham we are superbly inventive at getting around the rules and finding ways of getting money." (The council's capital spending programme rose from £60 million in 1981-82 to £153 million by 1983-84.)

Mr Caulcott said that the Government's decision to grant assisted-area status had opened the gateway for Birmingham to apply for EEC funds, such as those for the convention centre.

Ironically, Mr Caulcott believes that the city's Olympics bid last year played a part in renewing the faith of councillors, officials and the business community in their ability to regenerate the economy of Birmingham.

But behind the razzmatazz, Birmingham is still in the manufacturing heartland of the nation. Companies such as Austin Rover are still a vital part of the economic lifeblood of the city, along with others such as Tube Investments, GKN, Cadbury-Schweppes, Lucas and Poseco-Minsep.

Albert Bore, the Labour chairman of the economic development committee, is conscious of the need to create the skills and opportunities

that will persuade the industrial giants to invest in the city's future.

According to the economic development unit, an estimated two million square feet of floor space in council and private units and factories has been taken up in the last year for industrial use.

The creation of a new public-private sector team, called West Midlands United, to stimulate the economic regeneration of the region, has been proposed in a study by Price Waterhouse, the management consultants commissioned by the Birmingham Employers Forum.

The study says West Midlands United would implement new strategies in the business sector, infrastructure, in labour and management skills and in the creation of an improved image for the area.

Aston Science Park, now employing more than 500 people, is another success story, where fledgling computer-based companies flourish alongside the technical and academic facilities of Aston University. The University of Birmingham has set up an Institute of Research and Development to encourage technological transfer with science-based companies.

## Warnings despite the optimism

Harold Masgrove, the former chairman and chief executive of Austin Rover, took over this year as president of Birmingham's Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

The chamber represents 4,500 member-businesses in the city. Mr Masgrove said a chamber survey of local businesses in the second quarter of 1987 showed that deliveries, orders, production capacity and recruitment plans indicated growing optimism about an economic recovery.

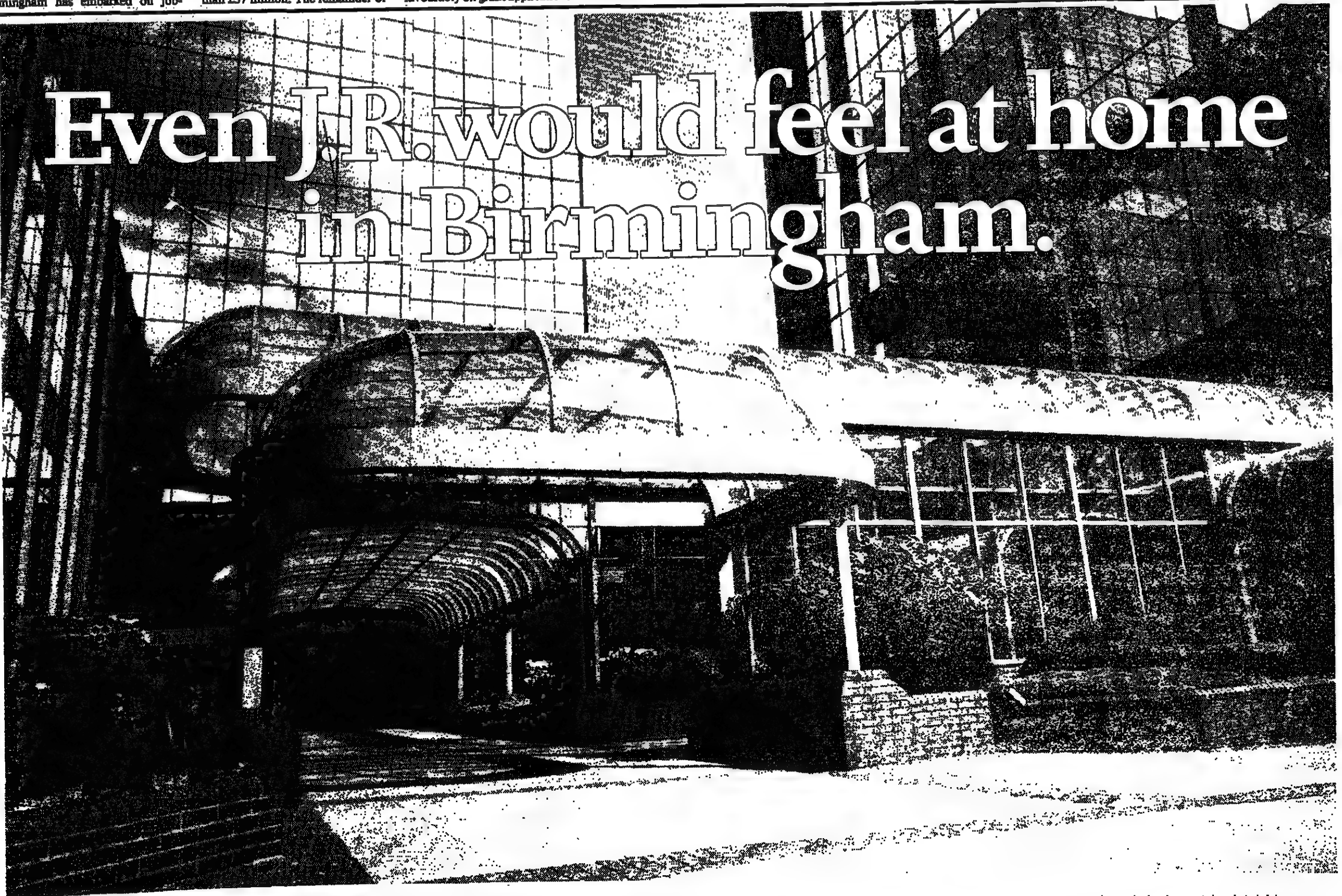
He said: "It is particularly

pleasing to see that manufacturing companies are sharing in the improved economy."

But he warned that interest rates were still too high and that some employers were having difficulties recruiting suitable staff to fill newly created positions.

As a result, the chamber has been selected as the base organization for a local employer network to bring about a closer match between the needs of employers and the output from schools and training services.

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And, to confirm fully the city's enviable reputation as one of the world's great meeting places, 1991 will see the opening of the International Convention Centre, putting beyond comparison the city's unrivalled opportunities for both business and leisure.

Even today a single glance at the city's bright new business district more than mirrors its status as one of the world's great cities.

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# World-beater in the heart of England

If Birmingham's leaders have their way, the city will become Britain's leading location for conventions



John Cole of the National Exhibition Centre, outside the city centre's Copthorne Hotel: The convention-centre market is expanding

**E**mboldened by the success of the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham is building a £125 million convention centre that will create more than 2,500 new jobs and pump more than £50 million a year into the local economy when completed.

City officials have high hopes that the two centres will make Birmingham the leading location in Britain for conventions, exhibitions and business meetings.

The NEC, the largest exhibition venue in the United Kingdom, is undergoing the first phase of a 20-year plan to double its existing 105,000 square metres to enable it to compete for some of the premier European exhibitions.

The International Convention Centre (ICC), due for completion by 1991, is one of the most ambitious projects undertaken in Britain's second city - or Britain's first provincial city, as the council calls it.

The EEC's regional development fund has given a grant of £37.5 million towards the cost of the scheme. The rest will be borrowed against the assets of the

NEC which, in its 11th year, is pumping its profits back into the city coffers.

The ICC is being built within the city's Broad Street redevelopment area. It will incorporate 11 halls, including a main conference hall seating up to 1,500 and a music auditorium, seating up to 2,200, where the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, under conductor Simon Rattle, will eventually be based.

## £21 million sports centre planned

Linked to the scheme will be a 350-room, five-star Hyatt Regency Hotel, 30 storeys high and already nicknamed the "crystal tower". It will cost £30 million.

A £21 million National Indoor Sports Arena will be built alongside. The ICC will include a central pedestrian mall running

down to a canal basin where shops and restaurants will be built. It has already been booked for the 1991 session of the International Olympic Committee, a spin off from the city's bold but unsuccessful bid for the 1992 Olympic Games.

Birmingham's traditional reliance on manufacturing industry cost it dear when the recession threw tens of thousands out of work. The NEC was the city's first big venture into the service sector and after its first decade is estimated to support about 4,000 jobs and attract £80 million a year to the local economy.

In the last financial year the NEC made a profit of £3.4 million after meeting all its costs and annual interest and repayment charges on the original £40 million loan raised by the city council.

Terry Golding, the NEC's chief executive, and his team of experts have been given the responsibility of market the new ICC.

John Cole, the NEC's marketing manager, said the NEC and the ICC would complement each other, offering different facilities to cater for specialist needs in the convention and exhibition field.

He said: "For Birmingham to have these two centres will be a world-beater. It is a fabulous combination. Customers will choose which of the two centres works best for them. The market is expanding all the time and we aim to get our share of it."

Work is underway to add a further 20,000 square metres of exhibition space to the NEC with three new, linked halls, giving it a total of 12 halls.

A key to the NEC's success is its location. On the outskirts of Birmingham, it is within a stone's throw of the M6 and M42 and alongside Birmingham International Airport. Birmingham International railway station, is also part of the complex.

The NEC attracts about three million visitors a year and is busy on most days of the year. In the last six months it has captured 18 new shows. This year it expects to stage about 100 concerts, most of them in the Arena, which will also be used for the first annual meeting of British Gas tomorrow.

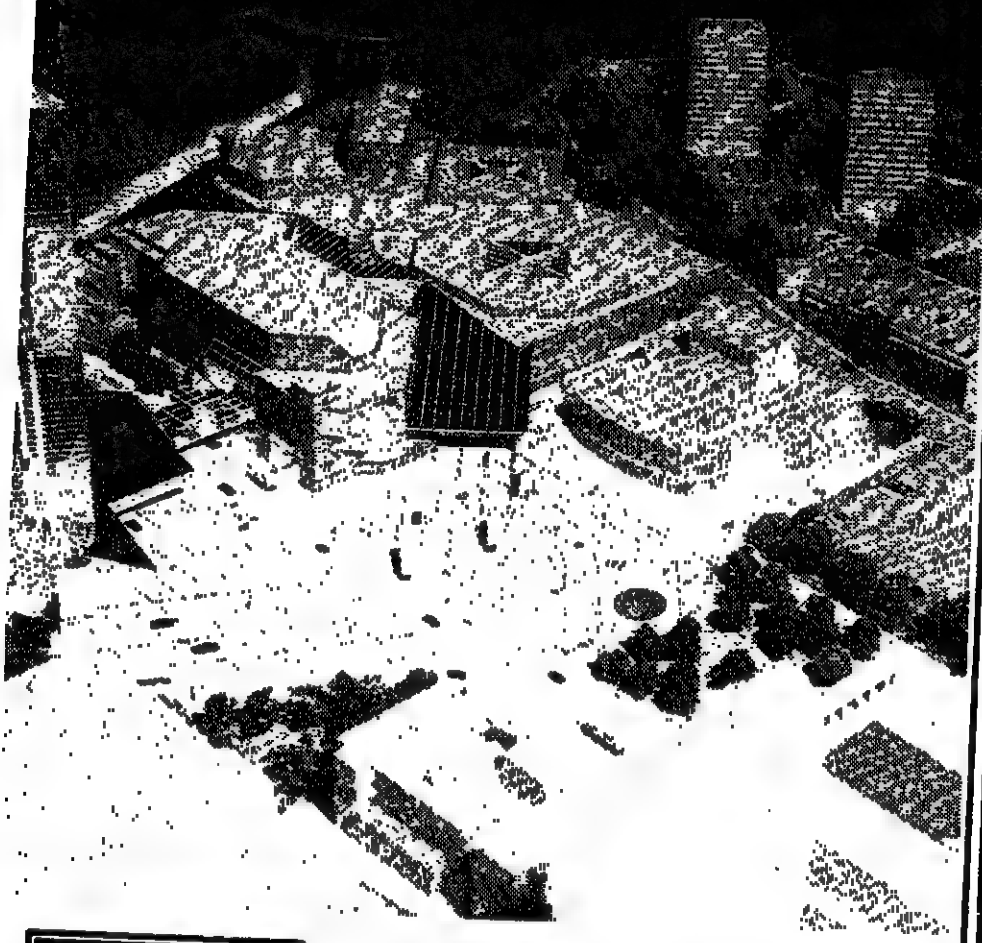
The Arena has already established a reputation as a venue for pop concerts and this year Steve Wonder, Tom Jones and Duran Duran will perform there. It was also used for the first annual meeting of British Telecom when more than 4,000 new shareholders turned up.

## New contract secures the Motor Show

A new contract has been signed that will keep the Motor Show, held at the NEC every two years in a 10-year sequence until 1998, through until 1994.

The European Ice Figure Skating Championships will be held there for the first time in 1989 and the Open Squash Championships have also been signed up.

The Douglas Group is contributing to the regeneration of Birmingham. Major projects in the Inner City include the Ladbroke Plaza in Needles Alley, the Elm Pentecostal Church Development in the Parade and the International Convention Centre, in joint venture with Turner International of New York, in Broad Street.



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Sales pitch: the Bull Ring market and shopping centre

## Shopping centre sets tills ringing

Multiple shopping chains now rank Birmingham as the second-best location in Britain after London's West End, according to a new city-centre review carried out by the city's development department.

The review was conducted as part of a new initiative to persuade businesses to invest in Birmingham as a shopping, office and business tourism centre. The review claimed that office rents in Birmingham city centre are £8.50 a square foot, compared with about £40 in London, and that the amount of office space taken in the city centre since 1984 had been exceeded only by Westminster.

Existing shopping centres are now being rapidly upgraded in the city centre as part of the new policy of promoting Birmingham. The New Street shopping centre is being refurbished and renamed the Palisades, together with a £55 million development, The Pavilions, in the High Street, and phased changes at the Bull Ring.

The city's Paradise Circus development, close to the site of the new convention centre, has produced a rehearsal and administrative base for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Paradise Circus houses Birmingham School of Music, the Adrian Boult Concert Hall, a lecture theatre, exhibition hall and a Shakespeare Memorial Hall. A new hotel, the Copthorne, has also been built.

Birmingham's Hippodrome Theatre has been refurbished at a cost of £3.5 million in a city which also includes the Repertory Theatre and the Alexandra Theatre.

Birmingham is reckoned to have some of the best Indian and Chinese restaurants in the country, and in the Chinatown part of the city new eating houses and wine bars are opening.

It holds an annual jazz festival, which brings some of the biggest names in modern and New Orleans-style jazz to the Midlands.

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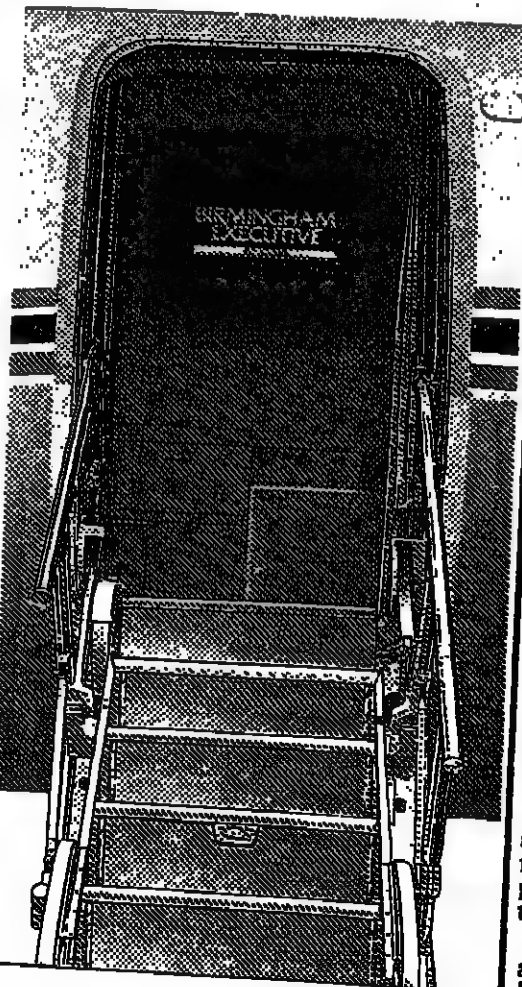
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## Airport soaring

On April 1 this year Birmingham International Airport proclaimed its new status as a public limited company by announcing a profit of £3 million for the year and a 32.5 per cent boost in passengers.

Bob Taylor, the managing director, reported that the Secretary of State for Aviation had acknowledged the airport to be the fastest-growing in Britain in 1986.

The £3 million profit, following a loss the previous year of £457,000, was distributed to seven district councils which operated the airport until the new company was set up after the demise of the West Midlands Council.

The seven councils still own the airport, but as a company it will operate more commercially and is expected to adopt a more competitive edge in the international market.

The increasing demand of Midlands business executives and holidaymakers to travel from their own regional airport pushed passenger figures to a record 2,280,000 in 1986.

The airport, improved with a new £62 million terminal in 1984, is close to the M6 and M42 and next-door to the National Exhibition Centre.

The number of scheduled routes operated from Birmingham - largely UK and Continental - has risen to 31. Operating airlines now include Lufthansa, Swissair, Air France, British Airways, Birmingham Executive Airways, Jersey European Airways and Orton.

The airport opened a new, purpose-built cargo centre last year and the number of specialist freight companies located there is increasing rapidly.

Last December, the first tenant moved into the West Midlands Freeport, which is based at the airport.

Venture for hi-tech

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Start-up

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Start-up

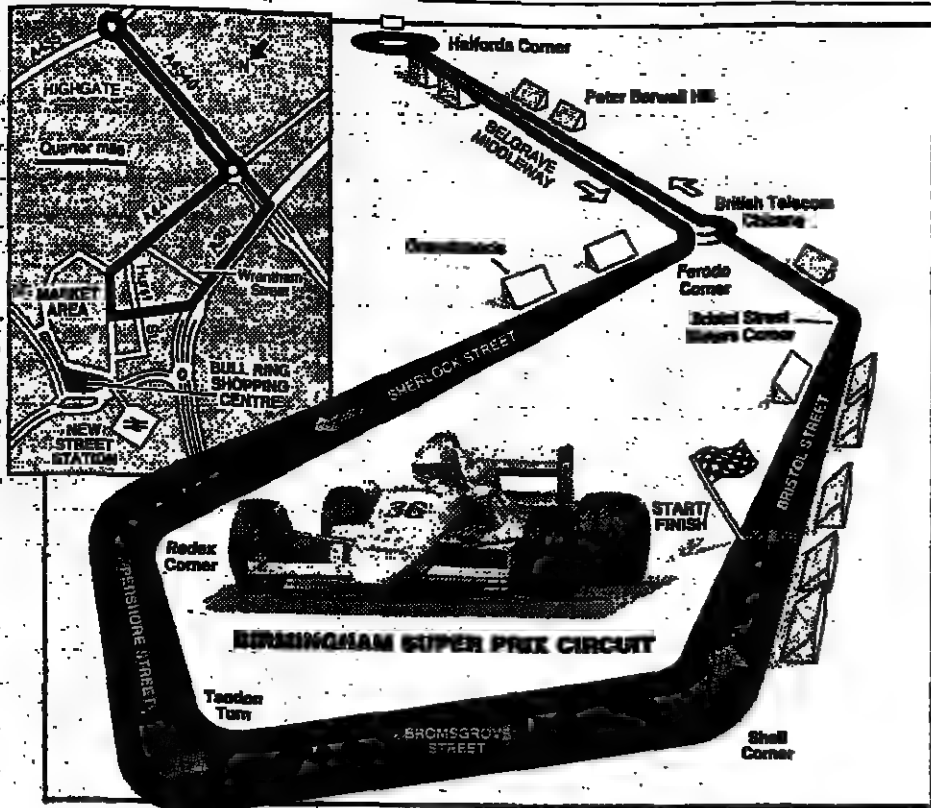
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## FOCUS

BIRMINGHAM/3

## Hurricane or not, the Super Prix runs this weekend



## The race with a lot of faith riding on it

The tail end of Hurricane Charley was the last thing officials in Birmingham expected when, last year, the city ambitiously staged Britain's first Monaco-style motor race on public roads.

Undaunted by the ferocious downpour that curtailed last year's two-day summer event, the city is going ahead this August Bank Holiday weekend with the Halfords Birmingham Super Prix.

More than a few eyebrows were raised when Birmingham first unveiled its plans for high speed races around a 2.4-mile circuit based on the inner ring road close to the city centre.

A special Road Race Bill had to be steered through Parliament to give the city permission to close public roads for the event. For a city wracked by high unemployment and its manufacturing

## Good for morale in a city that has had a battering

base devastated by the recession, road racing was considered by some an extravagant gesture, particularly as Birmingham city council was investing £1.5 million of taxpayers' money in the event.

But one of the aims of the Super Prix is to put Birmingham on the national and international map, to give the city a high profile and bring it to the attention of those who may eventually invest in the regeneration of the area.

John Charlton, the chairman of the city council's road-race sub-committee, said: "We think it is good for morale in a city which has had one hell of a battering over the last few years. It is another example of the city demonstrating that it will go out of its way to do different things which will help turn the tide of the local economy."

"As such, it is one small part of an overall programme to promote Birmingham."

City officials think that live TV broadcasts of the Super Prix and press reports give the city hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of publicity.

The main sponsor of the Super Prix is Halfords, the automotive-accessories retailer. The company has signed a deal worth £750,000 renewing last year's sponsorship for another two years.

Despite last year's deluge, Halfords, a Birmingham-based company, was far from disappointed with the results of its

first big venture into sponsorship, which it saw as a successful corporate promotion and marketing exercise.

The city council lost about £400,000 on last year's event, but it was never intended to make money quickly and plans at least to break even over five years. Income from sponsorship, ticket sales and franchises is up 31 per cent on last year's figure.

The main event of the two-day Super Prix festival of racing will be a 50-lap Formula 3000 race — a step down from Formula 1 Grand Prix racing. Drivers from 12 countries will compete at speeds of up to 180 mph.

Nigel Mansell, Britain's world championship contender, will be one of the commentators during two hours of live coverage on independent television.

Last year an estimated 70,000 people attended the race, reckoned to be the largest ever for such an event, before the lively remnants of Hurricane Charley blasted in from the Atlantic and brought it to an abrupt halt.

This year the city council commissioned an opinion poll among people living and working within the circuit. Eighty-three per cent of residents and 81 per cent of businesses surveyed thought the Super Prix should continue in future years.

Mr Charlton said that the 1986 event had been a tremendous success, despite the appalling weather.

Mr Charlton believes that it proved the success of the organization of the event and established the reputation of the circuit, which is surrounded by eight miles of crash

## Eventually the city could stage the British Grand Prix

barriers and wire meshing to protect spectators. He is also convinced that if the Super Prix proves itself over several years, Birmingham could eventually bid to stage the British Grand Prix.

He said: "It will be up to the powers that be. But I believe that sooner or later the motor-sport business really ought to test the market and try the Grand Prix in Birmingham."

"It would bring motor sport to a much larger group of people than is the case at present. We have the capability and potential to stage a premier world event."



John Charlton: helping turn the tide of the local economy

## Science parks keep the inventive spirit alive

With funds of £5 million, expansion and innovation are the key words

Symbols of the fading industrial era on which Birmingham's reputation for innovation has been built are ever present on the inner-city site of Aston Science Park, where high-technology companies are being nurtured in the new industrial revolution of the computer age.

Phase one of the park, containing "incubator" units for fledgling companies, is located in an old, refurbished non-ferrous rod mill. Phase three, the latest expansion on the 22-acre site, incorporates a section of an old canal, a reminder that Birmingham was at the centre of the canal network established during the industrial revolution.

But there is little time for romantic nostalgia over a bygone industrial age at Aston, which Birmingham says is Britain's only inner-city science park. Expansion and innovation are the name of the game and have been since the science park was created in 1983 from the partnership of Birmingham City Council, Lloyds Bank and the University of Aston.

It has a venture-capital fund of £5 million managed by Birmingham Technology Ltd, the management company formed to run the park, where tenants can draw on the research and expertise of the neighbouring university.

Forty-six computer-based companies are established at Aston, either in the smaller incubator units where a

full business-support service is offered to budding companies or in the larger units created later for established companies which are expected to display greater self-reliance. About 550 people are directly employed at Aston.

Aston Technology, one company formed at the park four years ago to build computers and software systems, now has 70 staff and a £4 million annual turnover. The company is now being acquired by the American firm General Automation, which will remain on site.

Shirley Hamilton, the managing

director of Tech-Ni-Plant, formed to promote ion implantation to improve the wear of metal tools, was named Midlands Business Woman of the Year in 1986.

Derek Harris, the finance director, said: "We are just putting a package together to raise £20 million of institutional money to complete the development of the 22-acre park. The significant thing is that people are now beating a path to our door. We are virtually full and are pressing ahead with the building programme to keep up with the demand."

In selecting new tenants for the



Raising millions: Derek Harris, finance director

park, the management team is keen that applicants be engaged in businesses to which the university can contribute. Mr Harris said: "It is a totally technologically-based science park and there is a lot of inter-action between the companies themselves. Some science parks will take only existing companies. We start where someone walks through the door with a bright idea."

Sir Frederick Crawford, vice-chancellor of the university, is credited with the original concept of a science park linked closely to the university. He returned to the university after 21 years in the US, teaching and researching electrical engineering at university in Stanford, where the world's first science park was created.

Harry Nicholls, chief executive of the science park, was formerly dean of Aston's faculty of management. He has been at Stanford as a visiting professor.

Phase four of the science park is scheduled to be a private sector amenity development, to include a small hotel, residential apartments and a restaurant and wine bar.

Executives at Aston Science Park are currently celebrating their latest 'coup'. Between September 1 and 4 the science park will host the Second International Technical Innovation and Entrepreneurship Symposium, a leading forum for policy-makers in the field of high-technology economic development.



Progressive science parks and traditional industry may give a misleading impression of Birmingham — the city also has a fine collection of Victorian buildings such as the town hall in Chamberlain Square

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What makes the Big Heart of England one of the world's great meeting places? The answers would fill a book. In fact they do, the Birmingham Conference and Travel Manual 1986/87. But before you send for it let's have a quick look at what gives the area a flying start over anywhere else. There's the National Exhibition Centre. In a week of the Motor Show nearly a million people passed through its doors. And by the turn of the decade there'll be an equally large and prestigious International Convention Centre and hotel complex right in the middle of Birmingham.

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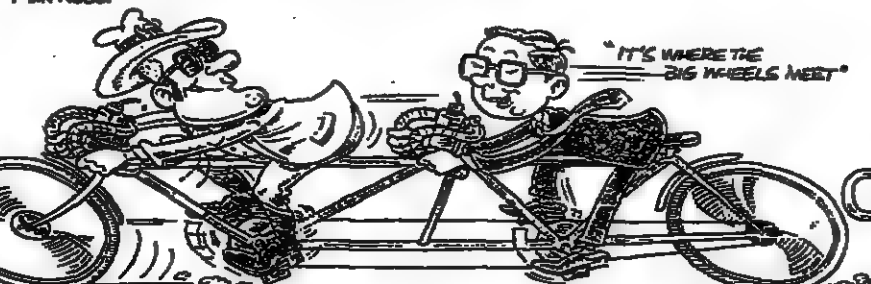
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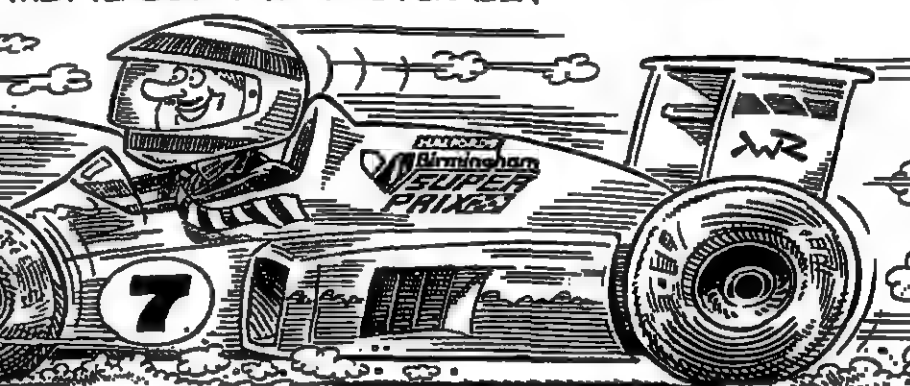
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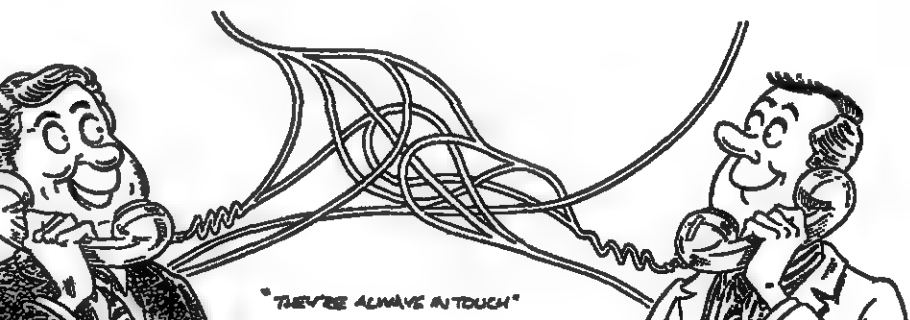
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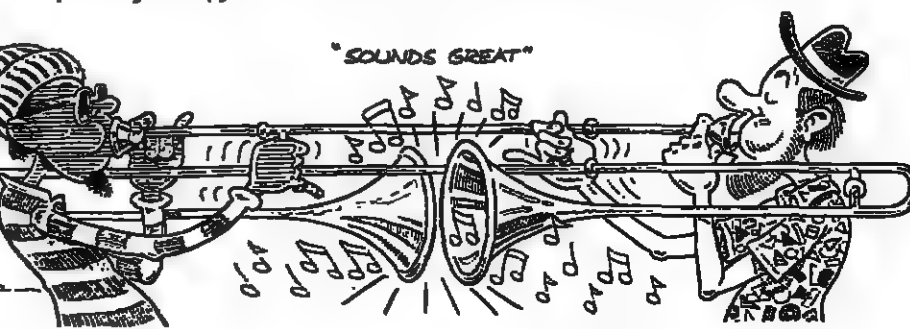
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## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## The day of the panther

The man who woke British breakfast television from its slumbers explains to Andrew Lycett his recipe for success at TV-am

**B**ruce Gyngell, TV-am's 58-year-old Australian managing director, bounds from his chair and rummages on his desk for a tape. He returns with a Walkman and asks me to put on some headphones. To a background of electronic music and crashing waves, I hear a disembodied American voice intoning: "You're wonderful. The people you work with have a high regard for you."

Gyngell (the first g is hard, the second soft) explains that the tape, from southern California, is part of an accelerated learning programme with which he is experimenting. It is designed to help him concentrate.

We had been discussing new areas which might be covered by TV-am—the built-in criticism by the IBA for the triviality of its news output. Next January, to mark Australia's bicentenary, the station's *Good Morning Britain* will be presented for a week from Sydney. Gyngell says he would really like to go to Siberia. He is fascinated by Russia's scientific advances, particularly its new learning techniques. "It's about remov-

ing the limiting beliefs we have which prevent us from reaching our potential," he enthuses.

Gyngell does not suffer from British reserve about what excites him. A follower of the American consciousness-raising cult *Insight*, he has been criticized for foisting his ideas on to both his employees and an unsuspecting public. Around his open-plan office he is known as the Pink Panther—a reference partly to his period as Sir Lew Grade's assistant in the 1970s (when he was responsible for films like *The Return of the Pink Panther*); rather more to his penchant for the colour pink, which his staff are encouraged to wear.

Tall, angular and dapper in his monogrammed shirt with its thick pink and grey stripes, Gyngell takes the inevitable sneers in good humour.

"Brightness is what I'm all about. Pink suits me better than any other colour. Every time I wear it people say I look well. It's just vanity. Seriously, I'm not trying to stop anyone wearing black—except in the morning. A black soignée dress is not the outfit or colour to start the day with. It gives



Bruce Gyngell: breakfast television is still his first love

"Brightness is what I'm about. Pink suits me"

the wrong signals. It is not welcoming." Gyngell can afford to indulge his eccentricities because he knows his results speak. Since arriving at TV-am in February 1984 as the representative of Australian media baron Kerry Packer and taking over as managing director three months later, he has turned the company into a profitable success which regularly attracts up to three times as many viewers as *Breakfast Time* on the BBC.

A one-minute commercial on the station, which at one time could be snapped up for £200, now costs £20,000.

Gyngell started in breakfast television in the United States in 1955. He also started up Australia's first multi-cultural channel, but breakfast TV remains his real love. He defines its essence as "eternal summer. It has got to be bright, cheerful and a great way to start the day. It needs to be informative and (this is a word the Brits have difficulty with) sound-led." That means you must be able to take your eyes off the screen while making the coffee and still know what is going on.

The right presenters are vital. Under Gyngell, programme makers must be aware their audience feels "vulnerable" at this hour. Presenters have to be "comfortable people, with that friendly, neighbourly feel about them."

Gyngell has authorized expenditure of £15 million to research Britons' breakfast time habits. TV-am programming now reflects the fact that its viewers change during the three and a half hours it is on the air. Early bulletins are short and sharp, to attract a predominantly male audience. "As the show moves on," reveals Gyngell, "it becomes softer. By 8.30 it is mainly female. Between 8.30 and 8.40 it changes pace. The women have got the family off and like to relax."

About 80 per cent of TV-am's budget goes on news, and Gyngell is keen to improve that coverage. He was clearly stung by the IBA mid-term report which, he says, "did not handle us well." Last week TV-am's senior editors began work in a new high-tech newsroom. "There was always trouble about communication," Gyngell says. "Now everyone can answer each other's phones."

He says TV-am is entering "a time of renewed growth and energy." With 100 journalists on its staff, recruitment of 12 more is now under way.

By this time next year Gyngell expects to have addressed another of the IBA's complaints—that TV-am does not have enough regional coverage—by opening three more studios (probably in Newcastle, Peterborough and Aberdeen) to add to the five already outside London.

The IBA also criticized the paucity of TV-am's religious coverage. Gyngell has hired the former editor of the Catholic paper *The Universe* as the station's religious editor, and instructed her to have a say on all programme-making.

Gyngell does not make too many claims for his medium. "What television does better than anything else is to inform you about things. If we can create awareness in people and have some fun about it—a smile every half hour—then I am happy."

## BYLINES

## Challenge to Mail

The *Daily Mail*, which is accustomed to preaching lessons in morality to broadcasters, has been challenged to prove its own probity by the BBC. Last Saturday the paper ran a full-page feature by the BBC director of programmes, Michael Grade, on the perils of trying to sell programme ideas to the American TV networks.

An outraged BBC alleges that the *Mail* had "lifted" the article out of this year's Edinburgh Television Festival magazine without, the BBC claims, asking the permission of the corporation, the festival organizers, or Grade.

The BBC has demanded that the *Mail* pay £500 into the Hangerford massacre fund to make amends for its action. "We're waiting to see how generous they are," said chief press officer, Keith Samuel.

Gordon Cowan, managing editor of the *Mail*, yesterday denied that the article had been used without consent. Asked about the £500, he replied: "We never discuss outside payments."

## New campaigner

A showdown is looming in the advertising and media trade press from next month when Haymarket Magazines' top title, *Campaign*, finally takes on its young rival, Patey Doyle's *Media Week*.

*Media Week* was launched in 1985 under the editorship of former *Campaign* media editor Tim Brooks, and has built up a large and loyal readership among the media buying departments of advertising agencies.

This year, after a long, expensive struggle, it has started trading profitably and is eating significantly into *Campaign*'s market share.

So from September 11, *Campaign* is introducing a new eight-page weekly media supplement, with its own staff of three reporters. It is also to increase its City coverage, give more space to new advertising campaigns, redesign its features pages and introduce more colour. "It's the biggest change to *Campaign* in its history," promises editor, Christine Barker.

## Crime time

*Police Five*, London Weekend Television's "crimewatch" show which has been running for 25 years, will be axed when a unique pan-media attempt to combat crime in the capital is launched. LWT, Thames, the *London Evening Standard* and LBC radio are to unite in a programme where the public will be encouraged to phone in leads on highlighted "crimes of the day". Rewards will be offered from a fund to which Michael

Ashcroft, boss of the Hawley Group, has already contributed £500,000.

## The up and up

ITV advertising revenue in July was 14.2 per cent up on the same month last year to £98.56 million and earlier modest forecasts are being adjusted upwards for the early autumn and the start of BP share flotation advertising. At the same time the commercial radio sector is reporting its best period of growth—revenue of £23.9 million for the second quarter of this year was a 26 per cent increase on 1986.

## Briefly...

The Royal College Of Nursing, Britain's largest non-TUC affiliated trade union, is launching a new weekly magazine for nurses, *Nursing Standard*, on September 9 aiming at a 100,000 circulation within five years... EMAP magazines is planning a new up-market financial magazine to rival *Mail Newspapers' lucrative Euromoney*... the IBA expects to announce new guidelines this autumn which will allow charities to advertise on television... Robert Maxwell, who has reorganized his magazine division Headway Publications, is pitching to publish *Signature*, the magazine for Diner's Club card holders... magazine publisher, Northern and Shell, which includes *Penthouse*, *Video World*, *Fitness* and *International Musician* in its roster, is to seek a full stock market listing next Spring...

## A stroke of ill-fortune for Bild Zeitung

Peter Bartels, deputy editor of *Bild Zeitung*, the largest circulation daily newspaper in Europe, was sitting anxiously by his telephone at lunchtime yesterday. Today is the last day of his paper's series on the life of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy. The series has been running since the day after Hess's death on August 17. But still Bartels does not have a lead story to publish on the man today.

Bartels can scarcely conceal his annoyance, because *Bild Zeitung*, part of the Hamburg-based Springer media empire, has Hess's son, Wolf-

The sudden collapse of Rudolf Hess's son on Sunday threatens to leave Europe's biggest daily with a large hole in today's planned front page

Rudiger, under contract. Wolf-Rudiger has been helping to add authenticity to the Hess life. But he suffered a stroke on Sunday. Bartels says he hopes that Wolf-Rudiger's wife will ring shortly to tell him where her father-in-law's grave is. Then *Bild Zeitung* can use that picture on its front page. "We were guaranteed a picture of the funeral,

but there has been no picture so far," complains Bartels.

*Bild Zeitung* inherited the contract with Hess's son from *Ja*, a mid-market weekly launched by the Springer group in February. But *Ja* did not take off. It was closed down earlier this summer, having lost £10 million and failed to reach even half its intended 800,000 circulation.

*Bild Zeitung* has a tradition of buying up personalities, such as Boris Becker and Steffi Graf. No figures are mentioned, but Bartels says Becker is expected to give the paper exclusive interviews on special occasions and come to Hamburg for exhibition matches when required. He adds that Wolf-Rudiger Hess approached the Springer group with

his story because he wanted help in marketing it.

Critics say *Bild Zeitung* has presented Hess as a hero. Bartels denies this: "We didn't want to make a big show about Rudolf Hess. Germans are interested in the story, but it's not as big as, say, the death of Kennedy."

The paper will be back to its regular subject matter next week—with a series on the mothers of prominent Germans, including, inevitably, Steffi Graf.

Michael Duncan

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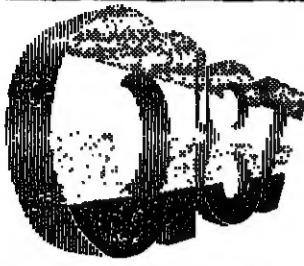
ATHLETICS: INJURIES PUT EXTRA PRESSURE ON A REPUTATION FOR PRODUCING THE GOODS WHEN IT MATTERS

# British talent is stretched to limit

From Pat Butcher  
Athletics Correspondent  
Rome

Athletics glory is measured in gold, and there is every reason to believe that the British reserves will be increased by the visit to Rome. But it should not worry the Bank of England. For the world championships, which begin on Saturday and end Sunday week, are unlikely to yield the lode which the British mined in Stuttgart last year.

The eight gold medals in the European championship have led not only the British public into an unaccustomed mood of sporting expectancy. But spectators and commentators throughout Europe also believe the British come good when it counts. It is a handy situation to be in, especially if their competitors think the same way. It is worth a few



Tomorrow: The Times form guide to the women's events in the world championships

metres start in most events. But first, you have to bring the potential champions to the starting line.

And the fragility of the human frame when subjected to the strains of the training load required to win medals nowadays is such that several of the Stuttgart successes qualify more for iodine and bandages rather than gold and ribbons.

The catalogue of cripples in the last few months has extended from Sebastian Coe, Steve Ovett, Daley Thompson and Allan Wells, winners since 1978, through Steve Cram to Fatima Whitbread and Roger Black, two of the more recent successes in world track and field.

Coe has the galling experience of being one of the greatest middle distance runners in history, yet has lost both opportunities to compete in these world championships. He missed the inaugural event in Helsinki in 1983, due to a virus. Now, he has been unable to rid himself of an aggravated Achilles' tendon injury. That he now feels compelled to attempt a third successive Olympic 1,500 metres gold, when no one has won two, is a prospect which one would gladly hike to Alaska to see. But he will not be competing here.

Miss Whitbread's loss to Tessa Sanderson last Saturday will give more confidence to her great rival, Petra Felke, than any complaint about an injured shoulder, however true it may be.

Ovett seems to be over his obstacle course. But there will be some trepidation for him in temperatures similar to Los Angeles, where he collapsed at the Olympic Games in 1984. Cram's revival after a comparatively poor start to the season has echoes of his situation going into Helsinki. His win in the 1,500m, won by a level-headed 21-year-old like Black, and he admits that his problems are as much mental as physical.

But Black is immensely strong. The succession of heats will be to his advantage physically, and the challenge of the championship should be more than enough to motivate him. Wells, on the other hand may yet withdraw from the 200m, as he has from the 100m, as he has from the 200m. He has already pushed longevity to its limits in sprinting. And it seems that he has insufficient time to recuperate from injuries to do himself justice.

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Scaling the hurdles: Jon Ridgeon has everything to gain in Rome as he moves up from being an outstanding junior to tackling the best in the world

And there are still doubts about Black, Wells and Miss Whitbread. Coping with the adulation of the last two years, from being a distant European junior winner to a narrow European senior winner cannot have been easy, even for a level-headed 21-year-old like Black. And he admits that his problems are as much mental as physical.

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Miss Whitbread's loss to Tessa Sanderson last Saturday

able to do the same as he has done in every major competition in the last seven years, that is, win.

But most intriguing of all is the possibility of British success for other types of reserves, that is to say, those athletes who have taken lower places in previous major championships, yet have pretensions to victory or medals this time. On the front line, there is Liz Lynch, Tom McKean and Mike Hill, with Jon Ridgeon, Colin Jackson, Derek Redmond and Steve Cram not far behind.

Miss Lynch's win in the Commonwealth Games 10,000m last year owed more to attitudes to women in post-colonial countries than to the talent, which flowered last winter, to add to her evident tenacity. For she was a well beaten seventh in the European championship.

But such has Miss Lynch

improved in the past 12 months, only losing the world cross-country championships in the last 200m, that even had Stuttgart winner, Ingrid Kristiansen, not been injured, the Scot would be fancied by many to win.

The same would apply to her compatriot, McKean, if his European victory, Coe, were running. Cram can readily testify to that. "After I beat Tom in the Commonwealth Games, he didn't say what a great run I'd had, he said he'd run badly. And that's a great attitude to have." Cram bore the brunt of that attitude three weeks later, when McKean beat him in Stuttgart, and almost beat Coe too, adding to his reputation by telling a television commentator that he thought he had the race won, "until this little so-and-so [Coe] came by."

Hill, eighth in Stuttgart, is currently 'hot', in competitive

terminology. He set the United Kingdom record of 85.24m during the best series with the new javelin. He has beaten all the leading contenders, some several times, except for Viktor Yevsyukov, of the Soviet Union.

Ridgeon and Jackson's inexorable climb from being by far the best juniors in the world has not halted. And with their elders stagnating, or simply failing too frequently, they cannot be ruled out of medal chances. Redmond too, his fourth place in Stuttgart, following an injury, was largely overlooked. And he is improving rapidly with every race. The same goes for Cram in the 1,500m. His advantage over people with faster times is his capacity to win races.

All of which points to a British gold, silver and bronze lining the clouds over the Stadio Olimpico.

## FOOTBALL

# Why Kendall can hardly afford a lost weekend

By Dennis Shaw

Howard Kendall's two-year campaign to transform Athletic Bilbao into a Spanish version of the Everton champions he left behind will be worth every peseta of the contract, reputedly around £300,000, he is said to have signed if he achieves success.

Kendall completed a five-match preparation programme with a 4-0 defeat at Derby on Monday night and said with enforced good cheer as he left: "I hope there were no Real Madrid spies here tonight."

Behind his smile was the realization that he is heading for the unknown and perhaps facing the worst. Mallorca are the first league visitors to Bilbao on Saturday. Only then will he appreciate and assess the magnitude of the task he has taken on.

Ominously, Derby County scored goals against his team far more easily than they would expect to do against most clubs in the higher reaches of the Football League, hardly an encouraging form guide when the likes of Barcelona and Real Madrid are lying in wait.

Two of Bilbao's best defenders are injured and that brings one of Kendall's big difficulties into sharp focus. The proud Basque club will not sign players from other regions. When Moufied was injured at Everton I went out and signed Watson," he recalled nostalgically. "I can't do that sort of thing now."

In reshuffling and making do with his existing staff the former Goodison manager is changing players' roles, instilling discipline, seeking defensive understanding. He shrugs off the problem of communicating but the mere fact that he needed an interpreter alongside him on the Basque Ground to get his urgent messages across was ample evidence that it is not easy.

"I've had no real problems in that sense so far," he insisted. "The greatest difficulty is in getting the players to about each other during a game. They just don't seem to do that."

It was easy to suspect that he set up the friendly against a

team who play in the direct English manner in order to show his players that there are aspects of our game they could take on board.

"We completely lost our shape and went to pieces after conceding goals," he confessed with thinly concealed alarm. "We learned more from being beaten in this way than in earning a good 1-1 draw against Torino when we played better. To be fair, the players are trying to learn new things in a short time and when they are wrong they were all over the place."

Kendall lives "over the shop," at the magnificent Bilbao training camp in the foothills, England's facilities during the 1982 World Cup. His job is that of constant coaching, not scoring the transfer market. "I have every chance of putting things right," he optimistically concluded. "I'm virtually with the players all day and every day."

Kendall will also live with one important fact of football life in Spain, namely that neither the media nor the public grant that precious continuity. Tony Blair is criticised by Ronnie Allen, who was a success at Bilbao two decades ago and is still a legendary figure there.

Allen was at Derby as a guest of the Spanish club and emphasized that the news of a 4-0 defeat would not be well received when the team arrived back. "Howard will find out very quickly how serious the public of Bilbao are about their football," Allen said. "If he does not explain for this defeat in the Press, the crowd will be looking for the right result on Saturday. It will be crucial for him because their fans put a great deal of importance on getting a winning start as a guide to the new season."

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# Luton chairman to protest on Chelsea terraces

By Clive White

David Evans, the Luton Town chairman, who is opposed to the presence of rival supporters in the same stadium or town, said yesterday that he was prepared to join supporters on the terraces at Stamford Bridge on Saturday to watch his club's league game against Chelsea.

Evans, who, along with his fellow directors, has been banned by Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, from the directors' box and boardroom, said yesterday: "I stood to watch football all my life before I became a director and I've been on the Chelsea terraces before."

Bates, who is a leading critic of Evans's own ban on visiting supporters to Kenilworth Road as a method of combating hooliganism, said that he decided to withdraw any hospitality to the Luton directors so that they may "gain first-hand experience of the effect of their own ban". When informed that Evans was contemplating watching the match from the terraces, Bates expressed his disappointment that Evans was "not entering into the spirit of his own scheme."

He went on: "When Sunderland banned Chelsea supporters from Roker Park some while ago I decided, as a Chelsea supporter, not to go. I may not be a very popular person, but I am consistent, which Mr Evans certainly is not."

In response, Evans, who is the Conservative MP for Welwyn and Hatfield, said: "Bates's attitude sums up the problems football has got. He is a member of the League management committee and it shows how they think."

## Rush says injury will soon mend

Turin (AP) — Ian Rush is confident he will recover quickly from the injury he suffered on Sunday and turn out for his new Italian club, Juventus, in the opening league game on September 13.

After he strained a muscle in his left thigh during a cup match against Lecce on Sunday, club doctors said he might be laid up for a month. Yesterday Rush said: "I can recover sooner. However, this injury in this crucial period of the preparation is a bad blow to me and the team."

He dismissed Press speculation that tough tackling by Lecce caused the injury. "I am used to rough play by defenders," he said, and added that it was what he must expect in the league championship. In six exhibition games for Juventus Rush scored 10 goals.

## Anti-hooligan ultimatum

Jack Crawford, the Football League's new anti-hooligan officer, expects all first division clubs to have implemented the government recommended membership schemes by the end of this season (Ian Stafford writes).

Crawford yesterday urged all clubs to follow the Prime Minister's guidelines on membership as soon as possible or run the risk of being shut down.

"I will be disappointed if these schemes have not been introduced at least in the first division by next May," he said. "I will liaise with clubs on how schemes can be most effectively introduced, security arrangements at grounds and offer advice on policing. The future of football could be at stake and we cannot let a few people spoil things for the majority."

Luton were forced to withdraw from the Littlewoods Cup last season when the League chairman upheld a decision of the management committee that the club must allocate 25 per cent of their tickets for the supporters of visiting clubs. This ruling does not apply to ordinary league games.

"The Football Association are trying hard to stop English fans travelling to Germany for next month's friendly because they are frightened they will smash up stadiums. I don't see how that can be right if it is wrong for us to do the same at Luton because we don't want our town and ground smashed up," Evans said. "Any football club or any other business has

the right to say: 'We don't want your custom.' Bates answered that he was respecting that view by this latest action.

Last week the Chelsea chairman spent £400 on a half-page advertisement in a Luton newspaper inviting Luton supporters to watch "an exciting match played on real grass in the company of your fellow supporters" — a direct reference to Luton's synthetic pitch, of which Bates is also a critic. The advertisement promised "No crowd trouble — our police are wonderful".

Bates said that Luton supporters might think that they are the most hated in the League because of the ban which their club operated. "We just wanted them to know that they are very welcome to our ground even though our supporters are not welcome to theirs."

This is not the first gesture of protest that Bates has made against Luton's anti-hooligan policy.

Evans said: "If he wants to ban me from the directors' box fair enough. It certainly doesn't worry me in the slightest. I'm going to watch my daughter in a tennis tournament on Friday, where she is selected to get to the semi-final. If she's in the final on Saturday I might watch her. If she's not I'll go to Chelsea and stand on the terraces with our supporters."

He added: "We have ended football hooliganism at Luton. We've shown it can be done. And football as a whole needs to do something before we have more Scarboroughs. If the problem isn't beaten one day we might not have a game at all."

## Everton against Real and reality

By Ian Ross

Everton will taste the forbidden fruit of top-class European competition in Madrid tonight. Seventy-two hours after their Merseyside neighbours, Liverpool, were there playing Atlético Madrid, the English champions will meet Real in a friendly.

But for the ban imposed on English clubs after the 1985 Heysel Stadium tragedy, in which 39 people lost their lives, Everton would have played in the European Cup twice in the last three seasons.

And while Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, is impatient for the ban to end, he believes it is important that Britain's premier clubs maintain contact with their Continental counterparts.

"Everton Football Club is not alone in missing the involvement of the major

European competitions," he said. "It is sad to think that we have won the Football League championship twice and been unable to compete, but that only serves to make us more determined to finish first again in case the ban is lifted at the end of the season."

"It doesn't really matter when or why you face a team like Real Madrid because it will always be a very special occasion."

Harvey will announce a depleted line-up tonight since half of his first team will be at home having treatment. Mountfield, the unsettled centre back, is the latest victim of a virus that has laid low Sharp and Steven.

Kevin Sheedy, the Republic of Ireland international, is fit again and ready for his first outing of the season tonight.

## IAAF to chase the drug cheats

Rome (AP) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced yesterday that it has decided to impose year-round drug testing, both in training and in competition, under new tough procedures designed to prevent the use of illegal substances.

The IAAF's Medical Commission plans to conduct random tests everywhere and at all times, "to catch the cheats right into their training havens and catch them red-handed," the IAAF vice-president, Arne Ljungqvist, of Sweden, who also heads the Medical Commission, said.

"We are fully aware that people are working on substances which conceal the use of drugs. And we are equally aware that many athletes take drugs for a given period and then stop before official competitions so they can't be detected," Ljungqvist said. "So we have to strike back with the weapons we have: our authority and efficiency."

Ljungqvist is awaiting a report on probenecid, a substance first mentioned at the Pan American Games in Indianapolis earlier this month, as potential drug concealer but which is not on the list of banned drugs published by IAAF or the International Olympic Committee.

Ljungqvist said the fight was specifically against the use of forbidden drugs like anabolic steroids. "Some athletes use drugs in training and minor competition, sometimes taking advantage of a relaxed attitude by local officials. Then they escape because they stop at a given time before a big event comes up, so the steroids can no longer be detected. But the damage is done," he said.

At least two of the American athletes who won gold medals in the Pan American Games, and whose subsequent drug tests revealed probenecid, are competing in the world championships (Pat Butcher writes from Rome).

Their names have not been revealed, but this revelation follows the confirmation by doctors in Los Angeles that there were also six positive tests for the steroid-blocking drug at the United States championships in San Jose two months ago.

It is difficult to see just how the IAAF could possibly initiate an international "flying squad" of drug testers, given the difficulty of crossing borders, particularly between the west and the eastern bloc. But John Holt, the IAAF secretary, has said that he would expect individual federations to take the lead in random drug testing, as the British have been doing for the last 18 months.

The new penalties for drug taking — two years for a first offence with amphetamines or steroids, and "life" for a second offence — will almost certainly be approved by the IAAF Congress.



Have in full cry: Patterson works his way through the Warwickshire batting, sending them downhill fast in taking seven for 40 at Edgbaston yesterday. Report, page 41

## Weather cannot mask MCC's success story

By John Woodcock  
Cricketer Correspondent

The prospects of a fitting finish to the bicentenary match between MCC and Rest of the World at Lord's were washed out yesterday by heavy and persistent rain. By the time the umpires abandoned all hope, soon after noon, the ground was already awash.

This was, of course, a great disappointment, and to some extent an anti-climax. But in such a wet and dismal summer, perhaps we should be grateful to have had four days of good things. The occasion turned out so successfully that the absence of three such outstanding cricketers as Ian Botham, Martin Crowe and Vivian Richards was soon forgotten.

MCC decided that those who played had done well enough for the money they shared for drawing the match to be raised from £25,000 to £30,000. Allan Border said he "wouldn't have missed the game for anything". It had been played, he thought, in just the right spirit. "Personal pride came into it," Border said. "The players had their own reputations to protect. All the ingredients were there for a serious confrontation." In saying that it had been "a real pleasure to play", Mike Gatting, Border's opposite number, sounded equally convincing.

The individual award for bowling, with Sir George Allen making the choice, went to Malcolm Marshall. He showed in several spells how good and formidably fast the modern West Indian fast bowler is; and he did it on the

## Lamb agrees to full tour

Allan Lamb yesterday confirmed his availability for the whole of England's winter tour. The Northamptonshire batsman had been keen to play in the World Cup and the Test series against Pakistan and New Zealand which follow, but had not been prepared to give any guarantees while his wife was waiting to give birth to their first child.

With a daughter being born earlier this month, Lamb has contacted Mickey Stewart, the England manager, offering his services for the entire winter programme. Paul Downton, the Middlesex wicket keeper, has ruled himself out of the New Zealand leg because his wife is expecting their first child, while Phil Edmunds and Graham Gooch are also unavailable for the full tour.

So far as changes in the game itself are concerned, nothing is more important in that the spinners should be cared for. Fifty years ago, every county side and every country side depended heavily on them. In 1937, for example, the Middlesex spinners took nearly 250 wickets between them. This season they will be lucky to take 100. Something must be done to halt this decline. Otherwise in 2037 the game, if not the occasion, could have lost an essential part of its charm.

Pollock's absence, page 41

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Yallop and Hogg axed

Graham Yallop, aged 34, and Rodney Hogg, aged 36, have been omitted from Victoria's Sheffield Shield cricket squad.

The former Australian captain and fast bowler have completed two-year bans for touring South Africa but their failure to be selected in the 33-man squad under the new captain, Dean Jones, probably signals the end of their first-class careers.

### Hutton's cap

Nicky Hutton, aged 20, is the one newcomer in the British squad for the European young riders' show jumping championship at Donaueschingen, West Germany, from September 10 to 12.

SQUAD: D. Hogg (Sussex, Enfield), P. Hogg (Sussex, Enfield), G. Greenwood (Lancashire, Lancashire), J. Hogg (Sussex, Enfield), J. Hogg (Sussex, Enfield), J. Hogg (Sussex, Enfield).

### Leading lights

Greg Norman, the champion, Severiano Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer, the world's top three golfers on the Sony rankings, will compete in the £220,000 European Open at Walton Heath from September 10 to 13.

### Out of frame

Jon Wright, Tony Jones and David Roe all missed the opening snooker tournament of the season at Clacton and the SPSSA, the sports ruling body, are to take disciplinary action.

### England team

England include four Portsmouth players in their basketball squad for the tournament against hosts Norway and Hungary this weekend.

Combermere played the English side, Repton, whose distinguished sporting old boys include Harold Althames (I was said to see that Emanuel, whose thoroughly undistinguished sporting old boys include myself, failed to make it beyond the league stage.) Repton had reached the final by beating Clifton in the semi, despite collapsing from 71 for aught to 95 all out.

Naturally, one feared for these most-checked, fair-haired, is-there-honey-still-for-ten-English-lads against Bajan pace and fire, but Des Anderson, the Repton captain, said: "As a matter of fact, pace hasn't been a great pace. There has been nothing more fearsome than we have met playing in England."

In fact, the English sides found that the worst problem was fielding in the heat. Playing on faster, bouncier wickets, which were often whimsically watered, has been an education. But that's the idea. "It exposes youngsters to foreign players and foreign conditions that gives them an insight into different ways of playing cricket," Sir Gary said.

For Combermere, the insights came in trying to play against reasonably accurate slow bowling. Like the West Indies team, the schoolboys put anything fast back even better. But that's slow stuff — they acted as if it was raining hard grenades and any modern wicketless might dislodge the pin, and when Roland Spear Cool Holder got himself stamped for 27 it was all a bit much.

He didn't want to leave, despite the Golden Ditch raised on high, feeling perhaps that to be shot in the back was not quite fair. But Combermere got more than 200 and looked favourites.

Repton's top bat was a chap called Chris Adams, on Derbyshire's books, who went for a duck, poor fellow. In fact, Repton lost four wickets before staging a fairly serious recovery. But just as their hopes were tentatively raised, down came the rain — and Combermere had won on run rate.

That's the rules, chaps, jolly well played everybody. In the international language of sport anyone who has ever kicked or hit or bowled, run a yard or thrown a punch knows what losing means. But that is part of Education — and indeed, if you must lose, there are worse places in the world to lose than Barbados.

## END COLUMN

## Collapse as rain falls on Repton

Simon Barnes

Bridgetown Please do not laugh. To cover cricket tournament in Barbados is not, it must be admitted, the most horrific of assignments a sports writer can undertake. So far, at any rate, I have been able to keep my morale reasonably high. But please, I repeat, do not laugh as I tell you that the final of the Sir Garfield Sobers international schools cricket festival was abandoned. Rain stopped play. It fell in buckets on the Kensington Oval. Just as it did, my transistor tells me at the bicentenary match at Lord's.

It has been a thoroughly agreeable tournament here, 14 schools taking part, six from England, two from Canada and three each from Trinidad and Barbados. A 40-over competition, it has been going on for the past three weeks and is obviously a Jolly Good Thing. There are schemes afoot to turn it into a schoolboys' World Cup in the fall of the year.

Standards? One of the schoolboys taking part had scored a century in Barbados. This is Roland Holder, aged 18, and already a celebrity on the island. "He should go on to become a Test cricketer," the Minister for Sport and Tourism, who turned up for the final, said. As the minister is Wesley Hall, it will be realized that Holder is quite a player.

The minister was doing a fairly poor job of being impartial. One of the teams in the final was Combermere, a Bajan school, whose distinguished sporting old boys includes Sir Frank Worrell and Hall himself.

## English face up to pace and fire

Combermere played the English side, Repton, whose distinguished sporting old boys include Harold Althames (I was said to see that Emanuel, whose thoroughly undistinguished sporting old boys include myself, failed to make it beyond the league stage.) Repton had reached the final by beating Clifton in the semi, despite collapsing from 71 for aught to 95 all out.

Naturally, one feared for these most-checked, fair-haired, is-there-honey-still-for-ten-English-lads against Bajan pace and fire, but Des Anderson, the Repton captain, said: "As a matter of fact, pace hasn't been a great pace. There has been nothing more fearsome than we have met playing in England."

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## Where the fast is sent back faster

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## British give their rivals a pasting

From Jim Raitton, Copenhagen

The world rowing championships were delayed by eight hours yesterday. It was not that the Lake Bregenz course was unrowable, but the morning gave too much advantage to lanes five and six.

Fortunately, by late afternoon, the wind was almost directly behind the crews and acceptable. Then it became a race against fading daylight and 24 heats were rowed at five minute intervals. It was reminiscent of the first day at Henley Royal Regatta and records tumbled all day.

Great Britain was in action before a stroke was pulled, objecting strongly to the Bulgarian coxed pair's boat, which was covered with a polymer paste, which can change the properties of water. It is akin to dragging the boat and the Bulgarians had to clean it down.

I think they would have needed more than polymer paste to deal with Steve Redgrave and Andy Holmes.

## British take honours

By a Special Correspondent

There was a major turnabout in the opening race of the World Quarter Ton Cup, sponsored by Heineken, at Crosshaven yesterday as two British yachts took first and second places.

Senator Incitatus, owned and designed by James Millwright, from Renfrew, climbed six places on the last two legs to take the winning gun from Lloyd Bankwin's Phoenix II.

The 15-knot breeze provoked the eventual downfall of the

Drawn against East Germany, Bulgaria, Kuwait, Czechoslovakia and Canada, with the victor going straight to Sunday's final, the British pair strong cross tail-wind in the morning gave too much advantage to lanes five and six.

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David Jones